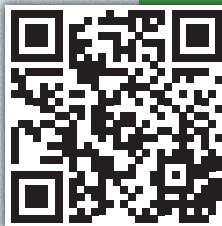




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CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

FUNDRAISER FOR JIMMY HINGSTON



Derek Kouyoumjian photo

A fundraiser was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall to assist longtime Charlestown resident Jimmy Hingston, and his family, in his battle against cancer. Pictured with Jimmy Hingston (center with hat) are friends and family. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

DiDomenico pushes for establishing a CFTC

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This session, Senator Sal DiDomenico has sponsored a bill that would create a Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC) in Massachusetts. This topic is all over the national news after President Joe Biden used his State of the Union address to speak about the monumental benefits of the federal Child Tax Credit and the need to reinstate it across the country. DiDomenico is leading the charge to reestablish a similar kind of family tax credit in Massachusetts with his bill so we can provide more financial support to families throughout the Commonwealth.

DiDomenico's Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC) bill would benefit children by simplifying the family tax credit process and increase benefits for families that need support. This legislation would combine the existing Household Dependent Tax Credit and Dependent Care Tax Credit into a single credit (a CFTC), increasing the value to at least \$600 per dependent child.

"I agree wholeheartedly with the President that we need to bring this tax credit back and I am proud to sponsor legislation that would establish a similar child and family tax credit in Massachusetts," said Senator DiDomenico, Assistant Majority Leader of the Massachusetts

Senate. "Low-income parents and children were some of the hardest hit individuals during the pandemic, and we saw how much the federal tax credit helped to slash child poverty and improve our residents' lives. We must do everything we can to bring this program back to our state and across the country."

The 2021 federal tax credit sent a monthly check to parents with young children that provided them with an economic cushion and helped cut the child poverty rate by nearly half in 2021.

"Extend the child tax credit, so no one has to raise a family in poverty," said President Biden during his State of the Union speech in Congress.

Wu announces citywide outdoor dining program

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the City of Boston's Permanent Outdoor Dining Program, in coordination with the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEI), the Streets Cabinet, and the Disabilities Commission. The permanent program creates a predictable, streamlined process for business owners that will expedite application review and allow for annual renewals. It incorporates

the activation of public space enjoyed during the temporary program, but addresses issues such as barriers to accessibility and concerns from public safety officials. The application to participate in the permanent program will be made available later this month with the goal of restaurant patios opening as early as May 1. The new program will include a

(DINING Pg. 3)

COLETTA HOLDS COFFEE HOUR



Derek Kouyoumjian photo

Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta held a Coffee Hour at Style Cafe in the Navy Yard. Coletta is shown thanking everyone for coming to the Coffee Hour and their support. See Page 8 for more photos.

CNC CORNER

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday March 7, 2023. The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person, public meeting on Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. District One, City Councilor Gabriela Coletta will attend to give us an update on her work and issues that affect Charlestown. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com. Updates on CNC02129.org

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

EDITORIAL

JIMMY CARTER:

A WONDERFUL, AMAZING MAN

The reports that former President Jimmy Carter has returned home for hospice care came as sad news for all Americans this week.

Ever since the self-described peanut farmer burst onto the national scene shortly after he was elected governor of Georgia, it is not an overstatement to say that Jimmy Carter served as the conscience of America for the past half century.

Jimmy Carter served four years as president from 1977-81. But that term of office was just a small mark left by this wonderful man during his decades of service to our country and the world.

He became the face of Habitat for Humanity, the organization that builds housing for low-income persons. He served as an official who oversaw numerous elections in foreign countries to ensure that they were run honestly and above-board. He also undertook a campaign to eradicate the Guinea worm, a human parasitic infection that plagued 3.5 million people across the globe annually 40 years ago, but thanks to the efforts of the Jimmy Carter Center, there were just 13 reported cases world-wide in 2022.

For his many years of service to the world, Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.”

It is fair to say that no former American president had as great an impact on the world after he left office than Jimmy Carter -- it’s not even close.

But the most remarkable aspect of Jimmy Carter’s life has been his incredible humility, which no doubt was informed by his faith as a Christian minister in his small hometown church in Plains, Georgia, where he gave a sermon every Sunday.

It often is a cliché to say that someone will be missed. But in the case of our former President, Jimmy Carter, a man who spoke the truth -- even if America did not want to hear it (such as when he said in 1979 that America must end its dependence on fossil fuels) -- his absence truly will be a great loss for all of us.

The Independent Newspaper Group reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity. We regret that we cannot publish unsigned letters. Please include your street and telephone number with your submission. The Independent Newspaper Group publishes columns, viewpoints and letters to the editor as a forum for readers to express their opinions and to encourage debate. Please note that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The Independent Newspaper Group. Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.

GUEST OP-ED

Start solving the vocational admissions problem: Improve access, create more seats

By Steven C. Sharek

It’s no longer a secret that Massachusetts vocational-technical and agricultural high schools are a great option for students of all backgrounds who want to learn a trade and pursue a career. Unfortunately, there simply isn’t enough space in these schools to accommodate the huge demand.

Right now, there are roughly 55,000 students in Chapter 74 state-approved vocational-technical and agricultural programs, with another 6,000 students on wait lists. At the same time, business and industry are crying out for skilled workers.

We can be proud of these

schools. They excel in academic performance, graduation rates, and expanded programming that includes fields like environmental science; information technology; and medical, health, and dental assisting. Students excel because they enjoy the engaging, hands-on learning.

We are at a tipping point. With this lack of available seats and strong demand for vocational education, advocates, elected officials, and editorial writers are understandably concerned about whether students are being admitted equitably into our schools. Vocational school leaders are, too.

The current debate is centered on admissions policies and wheth-

er the adoption of a lottery system is the silver bullet for fixing any inequities, real or perceived. The reality is that a lottery does nothing to address the lack of capacity and it does not guarantee desired enrollment outcomes.

As educators, we’d like to offer enrollment to everyone. We simply can’t. We don’t have the space. No lottery will ever change that. A lottery will just rearrange who sits in the seats, with 6,000 kids still on the outside looking in. With that in mind, we are working hard to conduct our admissions processes as fairly and equitably as possible:

(Op-Ed Pg. 4)

LETTER to the Editor

AS I SAW IT: THE CNC ELECTION

To the Editor,

Many, many years ago I came across a column in an East Boston newspaper written by George Murphy titled, “As I See It”. Although I considered Mr. Murphy a little “rough around the edges,” I always enjoyed his written banter about local happenings and always learned a thing or two for the most part.

Taking a cue from Mr. Murphy, I am writing this letter regarding the recent Charlestown Neighbor Council elections, with the title, “As I Saw It”.

The facts: More than 6 days before the scheduled election, Mayor Wu called a cold emergency in the city of Boston. The polar vortex would land the following weekend, and everyone should stay in and be safe. Instead of heeding this advice and postponing the election for the communities, safety, and concern, someone from the CNC, in their esteemed wisdom, decided to proceed with the election. This was poor judgement.

The list of candidates for the election came out the Thursday before the election. This did not give much notice to find out about what the candidates stood for or any information to make an informed decision.

Due to the redistricting and lack of new maps for the election on Saturday, gave way too much confusion and questions as people signed in to vote.

As a senior and with a car for transportation, I was able to vote and help at the polls. Throughout the afternoon, it became clear to me that many seniors were not voting, as in the past, seniors always found it their duty to cast a ballot and always showed up at the polls. They, in their good judgement stayed home.

What about parents with children, where were they? Many in Charlestown have no cars, where were they? Where were the ones who make it a point to vote, where were they? So many people heed-

ed the mayor’s advice, used good judgement, and stayed home.


Wondering why many of my friends didn’t vote, I asked them. Their answer, “What election?”

This is disturbing as the thoughtless CNC found it okay to have an election regardless of the cold weather and lack of clear information for the people. This was a flagrant disregard for the community of Charlestown.

There are 15,000 adults living in Charlestown. A grand total of 338 residents voted, 2.25% of 15,000.

George Murphy, rest his soul, would have a field day reporting on something like this.

Ann Kelleher



CHARLESTOWN

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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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DINING (from pg. 1)

monthly fee for all participants to help fund efforts to further expand outdoor dining more equitably across the City.

“Outdoor dining expanded as a way to keep our businesses open during the pandemic, and has turned into a popular opportunity to enjoy our streets and each other’s company,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “The Permanent Outdoor Dining Program is a multi-departmental collaboration to reimagine our public space for the benefit of residents, business owners, and visitors. We’ve taken what we learned over the last couple years to inform the permanent program, and we’re committed to working with our neighborhoods to make this program a success.”

“The outdoor dining program served as a lifeline to many small businesses in the City to ensure that they could keep their doors open throughout the pandemic,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “With the success of the program, I am excited for the program to continue to operate and to keep our neighborhoods vibrant moving forward.”

Business owners will be able to apply via an online portal which will be open starting on February 23, 2023. Through this portal, businesses will be able to submit their applications, track application progress, and renew the Outdoor Dining Permit annually. The application to apply will be available here.

“We were so excited to hear about the return of outdoor dining. For us, as a small restaurant the pandemic forced us to get creative, and the outdoor dining program has been a critical component to our sustainability and recovery. We saw changes in consumer behavior when we were forced to rethink the way we use public spaces,” said Andy Fadous, co-owner of American Provisions & Gray’s Hall. “With our two businesses on East Broadway & I Street in South Boston, we were able to provide an outdoor space for the community in both the morning and evenings, open longer hours and employ more staff.”

The permanent program requires businesses to submit professionally engineered site plans for outdoor dining setups on the street and sidewalk to ensure all patios meet the requirements of the state building code. The COVID-19 temporary program allowed for hand-drawn site plans and portable ramps under a temporary variance from the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB). The City has prepared multiple sample templates, which have been informed by the Disabilities Commission and approved by the MAAB for permanent use. The City has designated a staff member to help restaurant owners with technical assistance on engineering plans.

“With spring around the corner, we’re very excited for the return of the city’s outdoor dining program

here in Allston,” said Alex Cornacchini, the Executive Director of Allston Village Main Streets. “The last few years have shown that our restaurants have benefited from the added seating capacity, residents have benefited from the safer seating options during COVID, and the whole neighborhood has benefited from the added vibrancy these pop up patios produce.”

In 2020, the Outdoor Dining Pilot Program was created under temporary state legislation as a business relief response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to any of the temporary outdoor dining programs, fees were collected for the City’s Sidewalk Cafe Program, which predated the pandemic.


Going forward, all approved businesses participating in outdoor dining will be required to pay \$399 per month if they have a liquor license and \$199 per month if they do not. Fees will go toward technical assistance for hiring architects to draft site plans, with the goal of expanding the program to businesses that would not otherwise be able to participate.

The City will not be permitting on-street outdoor dining in the North End this year. Restaurants in the neighborhood with adequate sidewalk width will be eligible to apply for outdoor dining if their proposal complies with accessibility and licensing requirements. Restaurants with privately owned spaces seeking to have outdoor dining patios are encouraged to apply through the Inspectional Services Department.

The scheduled closures of the Sumner Tunnel and continued congestion around the North Washington Street Bridge construction project are expected to put a greater strain on North End traffic this summer and make it harder for residents and first responders to navigate the area. With about 95 restaurants in just over a third of a square mile, the North End has the densest per capita number of restaurants in the state. This has brought unique challenges and quality of life issues expressed by residents over the course of the temporary programs, including increased traffic, sanitation issues, and accessibility problems for older residents and those with limited mobility. The City will be creating a task force to determine how these issues could be remedied in future iterations of the permanent program. This year, the City will buy back jersey barriers from North End restaurant owners and provide relief for costs related to storing these items.

The City previously held two Citywide meetings to brief business owners and residents on the permanent program and collect feedback. City officials have heard from residents throughout the temporary program and used neighborhood concerns to inform the permanent program. Restaurants applying for the program are encouraged to actively involve residents, community members, and civic groups to discuss future plans for outdoor dining patios on any public space. Residents and community members can share their comments regarding restaurants applying to the program to the dedicated outdoor dining email address (outdoordining@boston.gov) before the business’s Boston Licensing Board hearing date. Residents and community members with feedback are also encouraged to attend the scheduled Boston Licensing Board hearing.

The Permanent Outdoor Dining Program builds off of Mayor Wu’s commitment to reimagine how Boston streets work for residents and visitors and how reconfiguring public spaces can foster community. In January, the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) announced findings from the Copley Connect pilot in summer of 2022. Following the success of the pilot, transportation planners with the BPDA and BTDA intend to study permanent improvements to Dartmouth Street between the Boston Public Library and Copley Square Park that would improve the public realm between three of Boston’s most iconic civic spaces and formally unify Copley Square. Additionally, the Boston Transportation Department will be announcing more Open Streets events in the coming months following the success of last year’s events creating more than a mile of car-free space in Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, and Dorchester.




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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are invited for an Independent Third Party Project Evaluator for US Department of Labor Strengthening Community College Training (SCC2) Grant. The Request for Proposal SCC22023 will be available to download from the College’s website on and after March 2, 2023. Please visit <https://www.bhcc.edu/news/>. The deadline for proposal submission is April 5, 2023.

Virtual Public Meeting

Austin Street Parking Lots Disposition


March 8, 2023

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/AustinStreetRFP

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 039 4750



Project Description:

Please join the Boston Planning & Development Agency and the Mayor’s Office of Housing for a community meeting about the Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Austin Street Parking lots on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6:00pm. This is an opportunity for the community to give feedback about the details of the RFP for the site. Please register for the meeting at bit.ly/AustinStreetRFP. If you have any questions, please contact Natalie Deduck at natalie.deduck@boston.gov.

mail to: **Natalie Deduck**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor


Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.6250

email: natalie.deduck@boston.gov

website: bit.ly/Bostonplans-Plan-Charlestown

BostonPlans.org

 @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

NEWS BRIEFS

FREE ACTIVITIES AT THE USS CONSTITUTION MUSEUM

During this winter vacation week there are some free activities going on at the USS Constitution Museum. The LEGO® Maritime Festival, is happening now through Sunday, February 26th. “Shipbuilders” of all ages have been joining in a community build or designing a vessel of their own in the Museum. Builders can let their imagination set sail! Participants are encouraged to enter their ship in the USS Constitution Museum’s LEGO® Ship Shape Competition when it is complete. Looking for inspiration? Check out the 43rd Annual USS Constitution Model Shipwright Guild’s show and the photo exhibit LIFE AT SEA: 2022, featuring the photography of seafarers at work, both in their final weeks. All activities and exhibits are free with Museum admission (suggested donation).

CHARLESTOWN DOGS’ CLEAN SWEEP SET FOR FEB. 25

Charlestown Dogs will sponsor a Clean Sweep on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10 a.m., with participants meeting at the Monument steps.

The Clean Sweep will involve Charlestown residents gathering together for the distribution of pickup tools, bags, gloves, and other supplies, before fanning out across the neighborhood to pick up any and all sorts of street debris. Dogs are welcome.

MICHAEL P. QUINN DINNER DANCE RETURNS APRIL 1

Michael P. Quinn’s mission of assisting the talents youth of our beloved town has been made possible by your continued support.

Preparations are now underway for the 54th annual Michael P. Quinn Dinner Dance on Saturday, April 1, at the Bunker Hill Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford St. in Charlestown.

The 2022 Quinn Scholar, Elle M Woods, will be saluted during the Dinner Dance. Elle is a 2022 graduate of Boston Latin School who is matriculating at Northeastern University, Bouve College of Nursing.

The program book will be dedicated to John A “Jack” Whelan, who passed away on July 12, 2022. Jack was a legendary Townie who gave much for the betterment of the community.

Commanding Brigadier General Kyle B Ellison, Marine Corps, War fighting Laboratory/Futures Directorate, Vice Chief, Officer of Naval Research, will be the featured speaker.

The evening meal will be prepared by Sandra McLaughlin, and entertainment provided by Alan La Bella. Tickets are \$ 50 and can be purchased by writing to P.O. Box 290216, Charlestown, MA, 02129; emailing maryfitzpatrick10@comcast.net; or calling Ronan at 617-242-5493.

OLD CHARLESTOWN SCHOOLBOYS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association has announced that a number of scholarships are available to any Charlestown schoolboy who: is a senior in high school; is a resident of Charlestown; and will be entering college or preparatory or technical school or will be entering the sophomore, junior or senior year in that school.

Applications are available from the Charlestown Branch of the Boston Public Library, the Boys & Girls Club, St. Mary/St. Catherine of Sienna offices, and the St. Francis de Sales office.

Applications must be received no later than March 24.

If you have any questions, call James O’Brien at 617-543-5384.

MWRA TO TEMPORARILY SHUT DOWN FLUORIDE SYSTEM

Starting in late February, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be replacing portions of the equipment that feeds fluoride into its drinking water. During this period, MWRA will not be adding fluoride to the water. This work is expected to take about three months to complete.

MWRA has worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on this issue. While fluoride is important for dental health, health officials believe that this short-term shut down will not pose any risk to dental health and will not require any special action by consumers.

If you have any concerns, check with your dental care provider. For more information on your drinking water, please visit www.mwra.com or call MWRA at 617-242-7283.

City of Boston reminds residents to respond to 2023 Annual Resident Listing

The City of Boston’s Election Department is reminding residents of the importance of responding to the Annual Resident Listing. The 2023 Boston Annual Resident Listing helps provide information for the fair planning and distribution of City services. The information collected is used to provide access to a fair jury and helps maintain an accurate and up to date voter list.

Registered voters must respond to the Boston Annual Resident Listing in order to keep their registration active. Residents can check their voting status or register to vote at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/>.

The Annual Resident Listing does not register one to vote. Residents can register to vote online, in-person at the Boston

Election Department, or by calling (617) 635-8683 (VOTE) to have a form mailed to them.

Included with the 2023 Boston Annual Resident Listing is the City of Boston Childcare Survey. The survey, administered by the Office of Early Childhood provides data on the needs of parents with children ages 0-5 to inform policy and programming. Residents can fill out the Childcare Survey and return it with their response to the Boston Annual Resident Listing in the prepaid envelope provided or online at www.boston.gov/childcare-survey. The survey is available in Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Cape Verdean Creole.

How to respond:

- By mail: Residents can return the completed forms to

the Election Department using the prepaid envelope that is provided to all households as part of the mailing.

- Respond online: Visit Boston.gov/census to respond to the Boston Annual Resident Listing. Translations are available online.

- Printable mail-in version: If for any reason residents did not receive the Boston Annual Resident Listing or if the mailing was misplaced, a printable version is available online at Boston.gov/census or by calling (617) 635-8683 (VOTE).

- Call the Election Department: Residents can call (617) 635-8683 (VOTE), Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., to speak to a representative about completing the census.

Op-Ed (from pg. 2)

-Since admissions regulations were revised by the state in 2021, 97% of vocational-technical and agricultural high schools have made changes in their admissions policies, personnel, or training. Clearly, our schools are serious about this effort.

-Grades are now less of a factor. Many schools now give equal consideration for grades of C or above, unlike before when student grades were more heavily emphasized.

-Disciplinary issues are now less of a factor. Minor disciplinary issues are no longer factored into the admissions process.

-Most schools require a recommendation, typically from a guidance counselor, and a brief interview to gauge a student’s interest in vocational education. We are training interviewers on eliminating bias and are providing supports and accommodations for those applying, including easier access to interviews and translation services.

-The admissions changes only took effect recently so we have limited data to gauge whether the changes we’ve made are making a real difference. One year of data

doesn’t make a trend. Moreover, our schools have no access to demographic information about the students who do not enroll. We need help from the state on this so we can make best-informed decisions.

-Finally, there’s no guarantee that a lottery would actually help the protected groups of students that all of us want to help. In fact, simulations run by some of our schools have demonstrated that a lottery would yield exactly the opposite result. That is, a lottery would result in lower numbers of enrolled students in some protected groups (just as one school experimenting with a lottery recently discovered).

Vocational-technical schools are continuously striving to serve under-represented populations. Consider special education. Five of the 10 school districts in Massachusetts with the largest percentages of students with disabilities are vocational-technical and agricultural high schools.

While there is strong sentiment on the both sides of the lottery debate, what all advocates of high quality vocational-technical education can agree on is this: The

state can do more to help vocational schools and our potential students:

First, the state needs to make a massive capital investment in vocational school construction to create more seats. Second, our schools need unfettered access to our middle schools so we can inform students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, about the value of vocational education. Put another way, we need better access to reach the very students our detractors say are being excluded.

As demand for limited seats continues, we must work together to create opportunity and bright futures for all our high school students. Vocational-technical and agricultural high schools in Massachusetts will continue to do their part.

Steven C. Sharek is Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, a professional association of educational leaders who administer and advocate for high-quality vocational-technical and agricultural education.

SEND US YOUR NEWS

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.

A CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

"When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" tells it all. Friends of the Charlestown Library together with St. John's Church will present tenor Joshua Collier and pianist Liya Nigmati in classical settings of Irish & Scottish Ballads and Tin Pan Alley Favorites in a Celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The engaging free concert at St. John's Church, Charlestown, on Saturday, March 18 at 8:00 p.m. will evoke the great Irish tenor John McCormack and encourage some sing along at the end. St. John's Church has wonderful acoustics and a very important Chickering concert grand from 1870.

According to the Boston Musical Intelligencer, American operatic tenor Joshua Collier "...stopped the show from his first utterance. We did not have to wait for the resplendent interpolated high C in "Ah, jour de deuil"—gleaming for eight bars until the



Tenor Joshua Collier.

cows came home...!" Finally he is getting in touch with his Irish roots.

"As a lirico-spinto operatic tenor, I am very acquainted with the operas of Puccini and Verdi, but had not ever consid-

ered my relation to my maternal great grandmother, Hildred Mattie O'Brian, as being of tremendous musical importance. I could sooner tell you the last 300 years of Italian culture, then recount any Irish history," said Collier.

Therefore, it was a revelation for Collier when asked to perform the free St. Patrick's Day Concert at St. John's Church on March 18 to become acquainted with — and truly fall in love with — this breathtakingly beautiful music. I've had many a drink bought for me as a result of a table-top rendition of "Danny Boy," but regretfully was not familiar with the vast wealth of the Irish repertoire. Each with its singular story, but all with overarching theme of Irish resilience and the unmistakable beauty of the Irish people and land.

"There's no more famous Irish musical storyteller than the incomparable tenor John McCormack. The tenor, referred to as "the great-

est tenor of all time" by Enrico Caruso, traded the proscenium stage, for the concert hall, to bring these remarkable stories and tunes to the American awareness. Again, dear reader, I am ashamed that I knew neither the story, nor the repertoire of John McCormack, but while I am late, in this case, it is much better late than never. While programming this concert, I found that every ballad, folk song, dance tune, was better than the last, and it made my job almost impossible," Collier added.

The first part is a selection of Irish folksongs transcribed by famous British composer, Benjamin Britten. Many of these tunes will sound familiar (ie. The Salley Gardens, The Ash Grove, The Plough Boy) but as with all of Britten's music, a slight twist. The second pays direct homage to McCormack, with some of the most beautiful songs I have encountered: She Moved Through

The Fair will have you weep with nostalgia; The Kerry Dance will have you in the aisle doing a jig, and you'll be humming Star of the County Down for weeks. Lastly, what St. Patrick's day concert would be complete without popular favorites like My Wild Irish Rose, Danny Boy, and When Irish Eyes are Smiling.

Collier concluded saying, "When programming, McCormack followed these principles:

- I give my audiences the songs I love.
- I give them songs they ought to love.
- I give them the folksongs of my native land, which I hold to be the most beautiful of any music of this kind.
- I give my audiences songs they want to hear."

WALK FOR HUNGER RETURNS

One of Massachusetts' most iconic events is back! Project Bread's The Walk for Hunger, the Commonwealth's largest and oldest day of community action against hunger, is seeking walkers for a new 3-mile route. Back in-person for the first time since 2019, the one-day fundraising event is set for Sunday, May 7 at the Boston Common, featuring plenty of family-friendly activations along the 3-mile loop. The Walk for Hunger is a fundraiser that supports Project Bread's work to raise awareness for food insecurity and increase food access for people of all ages in Massachusetts. In its 55th year, Project Bread invites you to help us raise more than \$1 million to support food assistance resources and sustainable policy solutions to end hunger. Likeminded anti-hunger organizations can enroll in our co-fundraising program, The Commonwealth, forming teams to raise money to support their own work, while also furthering the statewide effort. To register for the event and create a personal or team fundraising page for the Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk or call (617) 723-5000.



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FRIENDS AND FAMILY HOST FUNDRAISER FOR JIMMY HINGSTON

Derek Kouyoumjian photos



Jimmy Hingston with his parents Jim and Jan.

A fundraiser was held at the Knights Of Columbus Hall to assist longtime Charlestown resident Jimmy Hingston, and his family, in his battle against cancer. His nephew Michael Lacey organized this event with help from the Teamsters Local 25 and the community came together to remind Jimmy that he isn't alone in his fight. Comedian Lenny Clarke offered his services to officiate a live auction of autographed NHL memorabilia and a trip to Vegas along with dozens of prizes offered in a silent auction.



Jimmy Hingston and his wife, Andrea, and family members.



Jimmy Hingston and his father Jim, with Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty and Thomas Mari, President of Teamsters Local 25.



Meaghan Murray and Aileen Gorman.



Jimmy Hingston (third from right) with his sister-in-law Tammy, parents Jan and Jim, daughter Michelle, daughter Alexa, and wife Andrea.



Jimmy Hingston with legendary comedian Lenny Clarke (left) and Local 25 members Michael Anderson and Phil Barrineau. The three of them ran the live auction that offered autographed NHL memorabilia as well as a trip to Las Vegas.



Jimmy Hingston with Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty and members of Teamsters Local 25.



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FRIENDS AND FAMILY HOST FUNDRAISER FOR JIMMY HINGSTON

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Jimmy Hingston with Kathleen Foley.



Family members helped run the registration and silent auction.



Jimmy Hingston with Boston City Councilors Michael Flaherty and Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



Kathleen and Declan Laccey.



Elaine Donovan and Boston City Councilor Gabriela "Gigi" Coletta.



Carmelita Kelley takes a stroll around the party with her friend Alexa Hingston.



Shelia Collins sells shirts.



Local 25 Teamster Michael Anderson holds up an autographed Bergeron jersey, while comedian Lenny Clarke conducts the auction with help from DJ Macca.



Chrissy Vraibel with her niece Olivia Gautreau.



A sizable line makes its way through the many items available in the silent auction.



A sizable line makes its way through the many items available in the silent auction.



The Knights Of Columbus Hall was filled with much love and support for Jimmy Hingston and his family.

COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA HOLDS A COFFEE HOUR

Derek Kouyoumjian photos



Connie Gutierrez shares her thoughts with Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.



Jay Driscoll and Ann Lagasse with Charlestown Marina.

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

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Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta held a Coffee Hour at Style Cafe in the Navy Yard. It was an event that gave constituents an opportunity to connect with the Councilor in a relaxed, casual setting. Normally held once every 3 months, Councilor Coletta will hold the next Coffee Hour on March 4 in the North End at Cafe Paradiso and at Eagle Hill Cafe in East Boston on March 18th.



Connie Gutierrez waits for her turn to speak with Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.



Kathy Elliott enjoys some coffee while discussing her thoughts to Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta and her outreach and communications manager Gabriela Ramirez.



Gemma Parker.



Crystal Galvin, Kennedy Center Director Of Community Services.



Shea, Lucy, and Avrey with their Mom Megan Tracy.



Kathleen Chiong speaks with Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.



Elaine Donovan and John Caldwell talk with Ellie Sanchez, Chief Of Staff for Boston City Councilor Gabriela “Gigi” Coletta.

Hayden announces recent appointments to leadership team

Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden today announced several appointments to his leadership team as he shapes the direction of the office for his four-year term. The appointments include:

- **Byron Knight, Second Assistant District Attorney**—Byron has been in private practice specializing in criminal defense since 2015. Prior to that he served deputy legal counsel in the office of the governor’s legal counsel and held numerous prosecutor and investigator positions in the Suffolk district attorney’s office and Massachusetts attorney general’s office.
- **Maria Romero, Chief Legal Counsel**—Maria has served as assistant general counsel in the Suffolk sheriff’s office since 2001. Maria began her career in the Suffolk district attorney’s office, first in Dorchester district court and then on the general felony team and the narcotics and asset forfeiture unit.
- **Joseph Janezic, III, Chief, Crime Strategies Bureau**—Joseph has led the gang and community prosecutions unit in the Plymouth district attorney’s office since 2016. Prior to that he served as deputy chief and then chief of the Suffolk DA gang and Safe Neighborhood Initiative units and as an assistant attorney general.
- **Jennifer Zalnasky, Chief, Integrity Review Bureau**—Jennifer has been chief of the appeals unit in the Berkshire district attorney’s office since early 2021. She served as an assistant attorney general from 2014 to 2021 in the criminal bureau-appeals division and from 2008 to 2014 as assistant general counsel for the Sex Offender Registry Board. Prior to her state service Jennifer spent seven years in private practice.
- **David McGowan, Chief, Appeals Unit**—David began his career in the Suffolk district attorney’s appeal unit in 2007 and subsequently served in the major felony bureau, narcotics and asset forfeiture unit, domestic violence and sexual assault unit and senior trial unit, and homicide unit. He has also served as chief of arson and fire investigations since 2013.
- **Marc Tohme, Chief of Municipal and District Courts**—Marc has served as deputy chief of district courts since January 2020 and has been acting chief since December 2022. Marc started his career in 2013 as an assistant district attorney in Dorchester BMC and also served on the gang unit.
- **Linda Champion, Municipal and District Court Legal Counsel**—Linda has served as assistant general counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents since 2013. She worked as a superior court and district court assistant district attorney in the Suffolk district attorney’s office from 2011 to 2013 and has extensive private practice experience.
- **Tracy Litthcut, Special Advisor, Youth Initiatives and DEI**—Tracy has over 20 years of public sector experience with the Boston mayor’s office and other organizations in policy development, coalition building, proposal writing, violence prevention programming and family/youth engagement.

“I’m extremely fortunate to have such an accomplished group of professionals helping me to achieve the many objectives I have for the office, including greater community engagement, continued emphasis on firearm crimes and juvenile and young adult alternative resolution initiatives, data-based prevention and intervention strategies, and conviction and sentencing integrity,” Hayden said.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through March 4

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

Scheduled Work

- Installation of tub girders and structural steel
- Installation of bridge deck formwork
- Installation of sidewalk steel and formwork
- Installation of electrical utility conduits on bridge structure
- Installation of gas and water utilities on bridge structure

Work Hours

- Most work will be done during weekday daytime hours (6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- **Contraflow Pilot**
- The MassDOT-implemented contraflow pilot will continue to be in effect during evening peak traffic (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.), Monday through Friday.
- Police details, lane markings, temporary barriers, traffic cones, signage, and other tools will be used to control traffic during set up and operation of the contraflow.

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.

porary 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 period:

- **BRUINS:** March 2 at 7:00 p.m., and March 4 at 1:00 p.m.
- **CELTICS:** March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- **ALL OTHER EVENTS:** Feb. 24 at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., Feb. 25 at 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m., Feb. 26 at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

How can I find more information?

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: mass.gov/north-washington-street-bridge-replacement

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

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Rep. Santiago named as First Cabinet-Level Veterans' Secretary

Special to the Times

Governor Maura T. Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll announced that they are appointing State Representative Jon Santiago to serve as Massachusetts' first ever Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services. Representative Santiago is a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, an emergency medicine physician at Boston Medical Center, a former volunteer in the Peace Corps, and has served as State Representative for the 9th Suffolk district since 2019.

In 2022, the Massachusetts Legislature passed An Act relative to the governance, structure

and care of veterans at the Commonwealth's veterans' homes in response to the devastating tragedy at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home in 2020. The legislation made a number of key reforms, including creating the Executive Office of Veterans' Services to be led by the Secretary of Veterans' Services. Among the Secretary's responsibilities include serving as the ultimate appointing authority of the superintendents of the state's two veterans' homes. The secretariat will be established on March 1, 2023, which is when Rep. Santiago will be sworn in as Veterans' Services Secretary.

"Representative Santiago has

dedicated his life to serving his country – whether that's volunteering for the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic, working in the emergency room throughout COVID, being deployed overseas with the U.S. Army Reserve, or advocating for increased access to housing, public transportation and substance use disorder treatment in the State House," said Governor Healey. "His public health expertise and military service make him uniquely qualified to serve as Massachusetts' first ever Secretary of Veterans' Services. I'm confident that he will be the leader our veterans need and deserve and will always stand up for their health, safety and wellbeing."

"As the daughter of a Navy veteran, I'm so proud that Massachusetts is taking this critical step to ensure that our veterans are well cared for and prioritized by creating the Executive Office of Veterans' Services," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "I'm grateful to the veterans, legislators and advocates who worked so hard to see this through – and I'm grateful to Representative Santiago for stepping up to take on this enormous responsibility. I know our veterans will be in good hands under his leadership."

"I'm honored that Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have placed their trust in me to assume this historic position," said Representative Santiago. "Our veterans deserve the absolute highest quality of care, but they are far too often underserved. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to meeting the complex needs of those who have bravely served our country, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue my own service as Secretary of Veterans' Services."

Jon Santiago was born in Puer to Rico and received his undergraduate degrees in biology and religious studies from the University of Texas at Austin. After college, he volunteered for the Peace Corps where he organized sugarcane workers and communities in the Dominican Republic, and later was a Fulbright Scholar in Paris. He completed a Master of Public Health from the University of Washington at Seattle after returning from abroad. A graduate of Yale School of Medicine, he now works as an emergency medicine physician at Boston Medical Center, the city's safety net hospital. He also serves as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve and has been deployed overseas twice.



COURTESY OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE

Jon Santiago appointed the Secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans' Services.

In 2018, he was elected State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District located in Boston. During his time in the Legislature, he advocated to increase funding and services to address the substance use epidemic, affordable housing, and tackle health disparities. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Representative Santiago doubled his hours in the emergency room and served as a member of the House of Representatives COVID-19 Working Group and Vice-Chair of the COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness & Management to advise policymaking and ensure state government accountability.

He lives in the South End with his wife Alexandra and son Rafael.

The Veterans' Services Secretary will work closely with the newly constituted Veterans' Homes Council, which was also established by legislation. The Council's responsibilities include recommending improvements and policies for veterans' homes to the Secretary of Veterans' Services, submitting recommendations for appointments and removal of Veterans' Homes Superintendents, and developing an annual report reviewing the Veterans' Homes' demographics, finances, staffing levels, efficacy, equity, and resident well-being. Governor Healey and Acting Health and Human Services Secretary Mary Beckman announced their appointments to this council last week.

Statements of Support:

"Representative Santiago's service to his country, as a healthcare professional, and in the House of Representatives makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this new position. I want to thank Representative Santiago for his hard work during his time in the House, and I wish him all the best going forward." -House Speaker Ronald

J. Mariano (D-Quincy)

"The Healey-Driscoll administration should be commended for moving quickly to elevate Veterans' Services as a stand alone agency with direct report to the Governor. We congratulate them for selecting Jon Santiago as its new leader. Rep. Santiago is an Army veteran, dedicated legislator and an accomplished medical physician. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to our Country and Commonwealth and his leadership and compassion for helping those in need is unquestioned. The Disabled American Veterans look forward to working with him to serve and support our veterans and their families. DAV also wishes to thank current Secretary Cheryl Poppe for her many years of service and dedication during very challenging times and we know our veterans will continue to be well served by Secretary Santiago." -Coleman Nee, former Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans' Services (2011-2015) and National Line Officer for Disabled American Veterans.

"Representative Santiago's medical background will be a significant asset to the role of Veterans' Services Secretary, as he has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to meet veterans' complex health needs. I'm confident that he will always put the health and wellbeing of our veterans first." -Dr. Thea James, Vice President of Mission, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, and Director of the Violence Intervention Advocacy Program at Boston Medical Center

"Representative Santiago has been a strong, effective representative for our South End district, as well as for the Latino community throughout his career, and I'm excited to see him take on this important role in the Healey-Driscoll Administration. He will bring empathy, integrity and expertise to the job, and our veterans and Commonwealth will benefit enormously from his leadership." -Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, CEO of Inquilinos Boricuas in Acción

"Representative Santiago has been a champion of equity throughout his career, and he will bring compassion and expertise to this new role. We can count on him to make sure veterans are receiving the care they need and deserve, especially veterans of color." -Tony Molina, President of the Puerto Rican Veterans Association of Massachusetts.

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Derek Andrews
Defendant
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action which would negatively
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will proceed to the hearing and
adjudication of this action. You are
also required to file a copy of your
answer, if any, in the office of the
Register of this Court.
Witness, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: February 8, 2023
Felix D. Arroyo
Register of Probate

2/23/23
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Docket No.
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Estate of:
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Date of Death:
10/09/2016
A Petition for Order of Complete
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Alan Fryer of Dover, NH requesting
that the court enter a formal
Decree of Complete Settlement
including the allowance of a final

2/23/23
CT

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may be requested in the Petition.
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date, action may be taken without
further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First
Justice of this Court.
Date: February 14, 2023
Felix D. Arroyo,
Register of Probate

DIDOMENICO REAPPOINTED
SENATE ASSISTANT
MAJORITY LEADER



Last week, Sen. Sal DiDomenico (left) was appointed, once again, to Senate President Karen Spilka’s (right) leadership team as Assistant Majority Leader. This will mark the third consecutive legislative session that Senator DiDomenico will serve in that leadership position. DiDomenico was also appointed Chair of the Bills in Third Reading Committee, Vice Chair of the Education Committee, and member of the Labor and Workforce Development Committee, Steering and Policy Committee, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Personnel and Administration Committee, and State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee. “I am proud to continue my tenure in Senate President Karen Spilka’s leadership team as Assistant Majority Leader,” said State Senator Sal DiDomenico. “Thank you to Senate President Spilka for your trust, confidence and friendship. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues this session to move our Commonwealth forward.”

USPS warns about surge in use of counterfeit postage

In recent years, a surge in the use of counterfeit postage has been found in the mail stream. The intentional use, or sale, of counterfeit postage is a crime because it seeks to obtain services without payment. This activity reflects an intentional effort to defraud the Postal Service of the funds it needs to provide services to the public.

In response to this problem, the Postal Service is filing a federal register notice about changes to the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®), that will allow the Postal Service to treat items found in the mail stream bearing counterfeit postage as abandoned. “As the most trusted government agency in the nation, we will continue to work together with other law enforcement and government agencies to protect the sanctity of the mail,” said Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale.

Public comments can be mailed or delivered on or before March

15, 2023, to: Manager, Product Classification, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260-5015. If sending comments by email, include the name and address of the commenter and send to PCFederalRegister@usps.gov, with a subject line of “Counterfeit Postage.” Faxed comments are not accepted. All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

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CITY PAWS

Dogs at transition points

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Throughout our lives, we encounter transition points, both positive and negative. We've noticed that these are often moments when people think about adding a dog to their lives. In each case, there are pros and cons you should consider.

Some common transition points are reaching a significant age; setting up your first home; moving in with someone else; getting married; becoming a parent; changing jobs; retiring; or losing an important person or animal.

Job Change

The transition to remote work during the pandemic made it pos-

sible for many people to add a dog to their lives. As some of these folks return to the office, they and their dogs must learn to live with that change.

A job change can also mean moving, longer hours, and more or less travel. These can impact your relationship with current animal companions, and in some cases, may raise the possibility of adding an animal to your family.

Retirement

Leaving the world of work or moving to a semi-working status is a transition point that can have a massive impact on your lifestyle and your ability to make choices that can be good or bad for your mental and physical well-being.

Research has found that dogs positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. Patti Murphy, writing for www.travelawaits.com, said, "After I retired I noticed that I had a lot more free time and occasional boredom creeping in. Having a dog has helped fill some of that time and given me company on days when not much else is going on. We play, we walk, we do training, and I take him to visit family members who no longer have their pets and miss having a lively creature around."

Research has shown that dogs provide a reason to exercise and become part of a community. These are important factors for heart health and cognitive function. Increased social interaction, companionship, daily routine, and the unconditional love of a dog can do wonders for our quality of life and mental health.

However, there are factors that must enter into your decision-making. Murphy suggests that retirees consider the size and strength of a dog who might pull on a walk and sometimes need a lift from you. She also recommends a more mature animal who might need less training and have less energy to burn off daily.



Research has found that dogs positively impact the lives of people of retirement age. (Photo by Ave Calvar)

Moving to a New Home

Over the years, we've conducted home visits for various rescue groups. Quite a number of these were for young individuals or couples setting up their first home or home together.

One of the first questions in the adoption process is whether or not dogs are allowed in the building and under the lease. We gave a top approval rating to a couple from the Midwest who moved to Boston. They had leased a dog-friendly apartment, planned where they would walk a dog, and found a nearby veterinary hospital. Both

were engaged in the adoption process and were enthusiastic about having a dog.

If you already have animals in your home when you relocate, let those critters get used to their new place before introducing an additional family member. Moving is stressful for our furry companions, just as it is for the humans in the family. It will be harder to give a new dog the time and peaceful atmosphere needed to transition to a new home and family.

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

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