



THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE RIDE OF PAUL REVERE



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTO

Celebrating Patriots Day, reenactors National Lancers, on Rebel, as Paul Revere followed by Sgt. Colin Vinomano as William Dawes who also made the trek to Lexington on that fateful night to warn residents that the British Army was on their way. See Pages 6 and 7 for more photos.

CHARLESTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALENDAR

CNC Development Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 26

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Development Committee will hold an in-person, public meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus. The sole agenda item will be the Plan:Charlestown Hybrid Scenarios presented at the March 30, 2023 BPDA meeting. <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/plan-charlestown> Members of the BPDA PLAN:Charlestown team will discuss the proposed zoning

changes and land use scenarios to be followed by an opportunity for the committee and community to ask questions and offer comments on the proposed land use and zoning changes. If you cannot attend - please send us your comments and questions.

CNC General Meeting, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 7 p.m. The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person, public meeting on Tuesday, May 2nd from 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. The agenda will be published on our web-

site next week. All residents are encouraged to attend and bring their neighborhood questions, concerns, and suggestions.

Coffee Hour: Please stop by Tradesman, 50 Hood Park Dr, Boston, MA 02129 on Friday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m. to welcome the new Precinct 7 representative James O'Brien and chat with him about your part of the neighborhood. If you live on the Hood Park side of Rutherford Avenue - Jay is your new representative! Precinct 7

(CNC Pg. 6)

Debate about The Helm on Third rages on

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On Thursday, April 13, over 250 people gathered at the Knights of Columbus for a public meeting regarding the development of The Helm on Third - a permanent supportive and affordable housing project at the site of the old Constitution Inn.

The discourse surrounding this project has been running rampant since at least last October, when the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) held a public meeting where the proponents laid out the plans for the project.

Since October's meeting, the proponents of this project, including The St. Francis House, the

Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), Maloney Properties, and the YMCA, have updated the plans.

Currently, the project is slated to create 120 units - 64 of which would be permanent supportive housing studio units for the formerly homeless - a 33% reduction from the initial plans. These 64 units would be split in half, 32 for formerly homeless veterans and 32 for formerly homeless women.

Furthermore, there would be 32 permanent affordable housing studio units - 16 for those moving from recovery programs and

(THE HELM Pg. 12)



City Councilor At-Large Erin Murphy addresses the crowd.

Our 02129
Senior Page
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Five Charlestown projects earmarked for CPA grants

By Dan Murphy

The city has earmarked 56 projects for \$60 million in Community Preservation Act (CPA) grants this year, including one Historic Preservation project in Charlestown, as well as four Open Space and Recreation projects in the neighborhood.

The Charlestown Boys & Girls Club has been selected for a \$50,000 Historic Preservation grant To preserve the masonry exterior of the historic 60 High St. building.

Charlestown recipients of Open Space and Recreation CPA grants include: Little Mystic Channel Plaza, which will receive \$250,000 to redesign and rehabilitate the Charles-Newtown Plaza in the lower Little Mystic Channel, including plantings, shade structures, a lawn area, and seating;

Wolcott Cutler Memorial Garden, which will be awarded \$150,000 to create an ADA-accessible pathway and patio in an existing publicly-accessible church garden; John J. Ryan Park, which will receive \$1 million to construct a 6-foot seawall and vegetated berm along the banks of the Mystic River to protect the site and surrounding neighborhoods from storm surges and sea-level rise, with a pathway atop the berm; and Gardens for Charlestown, which will receive \$60,000 to rehabilitate the border and retaining walls of the community garden by replacing the existing timbers with manufactured stone.

Mayor Michelle Wu and the City of Boston Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had recommended the proposed allocation of more than \$60 million in funding for the projects that,

according to the city, “must create or preserve affordable housing, historic sites, or open space and recreation.” Their recommendations were subsequently approved by the City Council at its April 12 weekly meeting.

“The Community Preservation Act works to build a Boston for everyone by investing in both our City’s history and its future,” said Mayor Wu in a press release. “I am proud to partner with the Community Preservation Committee on these new projects which will help preserve historic assets while boosting access to affordable housing, open space, and recreation.”

City Councilor Michael Flaherty, Chair of the Council’s Community Preservation Committee, said: “Some of the most exciting and creative projects in our ever-changing City–innovative

affordable housing projects, parks, and historic preservation projects-- are the result of resident and community driven CPA proposals. I am so thankful for the vision and partnership of the many leaders that helped us get the ballot measure passed years ago and continue to be thankful for the partnership with Mayor Wu and the Community Preservation Committee.”

Added Felicia Jacques, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee: “We recommended projects which respond to Mayor Wu’s commitment to advance innovative responses to historic resources, create varied housing solutions, and fund sustainable, climate conscious open spaces. In granting \$40 million in community resources, the largest funding since the CPA was implemented in Boston, the committee is proud to have supported these projects

across the City.”

Including this funding round, the City of Boston has awarded over \$157 million to support 293 projects including 112 open space and recreation projects, 46 affordable housing projects, and 135 historic preservation projects since 2018.

The Community Preservation Fund was created following voters’ passage and adoption of the Community Preservation Act in November 2016. It is funded by a 1 percent property tax-based surcharge on residential and business property tax bills, which took effect in July 2017, and an annual state funding from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund. The Mayor and Community Preservation Committee recommend funding use and the City Council must vote to approve.

Feedback coming in on PLAN: Charlestown hybrid scenario

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Feedback from residents is flying in after late last month’s reveal of the Boston Planning and Development Agency’s (BPDA) hybrid scenario regarding zoning recommendations for the industrial areas of Sullivan Square and along Rutherford Avenue.

The hybrid scenario presented on Thursday, Mar. 30, proposes potential changes for land use, density, transportation, open space, and more for the areas of Sullivan Square and Rutherford Avenue.

This proposal, as presented in March, featured plans such as creating 28 acres of public open space, three free public shuttle routes, and even a commuter rail station at Sullivan Square and more.

Since the scenario reveal, residents have been able to provide feedback through a survey on the BPDA’s website. However, over the last couple of weeks, the BPDA has given residents the opportunity to provide feedback in person through office hours at the Charlestown Public Library.

“The office hours have been immensely helpful for staff to collect feedback. Residents have been able to stop by, ask questions, and really dig into any concerns and talk about their hopes for the neighborhood with BPDA planning staff,” said a BPDA spokesperson.

One of the more talked about aspects of the proposed scenario and an aspect the BPDA has acknowledged they have heard a lot of feedback about is maximum building height.

In the March presentation, a slide detailed that the building height for new development closest to the highway – west of Rutherford Avenue – could range as tall as 350 feet and 19 stories before decreasing as you moved closer to Rutherford Avenue.

Erin Woods attended the BPDA’s office hour on Friday, Apr. 14, and while she was fond of the open space aspects of the proposal, she shared her concerns regarding building height, saying, “I just think it’s too high, too dense, and I think it needs to come down.”

“They said they’re going to be coming down on the height, so I hope that’s real.”

Another attendee at last Friday’s office hour, Ellen Kitzis, described the BPDA’s plans as a “work in progress” and mentioned that the speed of the plan and online meetings had not helped the process.

However, she did say, “I think they’re [the BPDA] trying to be responsive to what the community wants. I think they’re under dual

pressures from the community and from public pronouncements as to what they want the City of Boston to look like and what it wants to support.”

“I don’t challenge their [the BPDA] intentions – I think their intentions are good,” said Kitzis.

Two other attendees – Anna DeMare and David Seuss – voiced their support for the plans. “It looks good, and it looks like they’re [the BPDA] being very

thoughtful about preserving the history of Charlestown,” said DeMare.

“The big plan seems like a positive step forward. I mean, the project’s area needs to be rehabilitated, and almost any plans better than the current situation there,” said Seuss.

Along with the feedback and comments featured above, the

(PLAN Pg. 6)



Plan: Charlestown

Walking tour in Charlestown

Saturday

April 29, 2023

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Starting Location: Community College T Stop

Points of interest will include: BHCC; Rutherford Ave; Hood Park; Cambridge Street, and Roland Street.

Project Description:

Join your neighbors and PLAN: Charlestown for a Saturday morning walking tour in Charlestown! From **10AM to Noon on April 29th, 2023.** We will meet at the **Community College T Stop**. Points of interest will include: BHCC; Rutherford Ave; Hood Park; Cambridge Street, and Roland Street. These are an opportunity to learn more about Charlestown’s neighborhoods, PLAN: Charlestown’s latest future scenarios for these industrial areas, and to your priorities for the neighborhood.

The walking tour will be 2.5 miles long and moderately paced. People of all ages and abilities welcome to join for part or all. Weather permitting. For more information, visit the PLAN: Charlestown website!

mail to:
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website: www.bit.ly/bostonplans-Plan-Charlestown

BostonPlans.org | @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

APRIL DISTRIBUTIONS

49 Vine Street

Set-up: Monday, April 24 - 3PM

Distribution: Tuesday, April 25 - 2PM

Mishawum Park

Distribution: Thurs, April 20 - 1PM

(Tom works with the Mishawum staff to distribute food.)

Director-Tom MacDonald 617-990-7314

Wu, B.A.A. announce recipients of the inaugural Fastest Bostonian awards

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.) on Monday announced a Charlestown resident is among the recipients of the inaugural awards for the Fastest Bostonian. The awards will be given to Vinny Castronuovo, who finished the race in 2:25:56, and Shannon Lamarre, who finished the race in 2:54:34. Lamarre, a 28 year old Charlestown resident, is an environmental engineer and a member of the Greater Boston Track

Club who ran her fifth Boston Marathon and also set a personal record today.

Castronuovo is a 23 year old South End resident and mechanical engineering graduate student at Northeastern University who ran his second Boston Marathon and set a personal record. He is a member of the university's club running team.

This is also the first year the Boston Marathon has a category for non-binary runners, and one Boston resident made history running in this category. The

City and the B.A.A. will recognize Danielle Bishop, who finished the race in 3:32:29, as the first Bostonian to participate in the race registered as non-binary. Bishop is a 28 year old Allston resident running in their fifth Boston Marathon. They are a Team Lead at New Balance, a Boston University alum, and enjoy running for fun.

"We are thrilled to celebrate three Bostonians who exemplify the spirit of the Boston Marathon," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Each of these athletes ran an incredible race. I'm grateful to

the B.A.A. for joining with the City of Boston to recognize the incredible talent right here in our neighborhoods that is part of what makes this the greatest race in the world. Congratulations to Shannon LaMarre, Vinny Castronuovo, and Danielle Bishop! We look forward to celebrating with them and the larger Boston running community."

"Congratulations to our Fastest Bostonians! Vinny, Shannon and Danielle made history today and have set the stage for many Bostonians in the years to come.

In typical Bostonian fashion, our champions showed grit, determination and a never-give-up attitude," said Jack Fleming, CEO and President of the B.A.A.

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon. This is the first year that Boston residents with the quickest time crossing the Finish Line will receive a commemorative glass bowl engraved with the phrase "Fastest Bostonian."

The reception to honor Boston's fastest runners will be announced soon.

Grass-roots citizens' group seeks to establish Charlestown Historic Battlefield District

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

With the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill quickly approaching in 2025, a group of about 45 Charlestown residents gathered at American Legion Post 26 last Tuesday (April 11) to show their support for creating a Charlestown Historic Battlefield District to extend beyond what currently exists at the Bunker Hill monument area, which is part of

the National Historical Park that includes seven other sites that showcase Boston's role in the American Revolution.

Local resident Johanna Hynes brought the residents up to date on some of the steps that need to be accomplished and some of the obstacles that stand in the way.

Hynes said that there are certain steps that must be taken, such as establishing a non-profit organization, obtaining a tax ID num-

ber, and applying for grants for the project. However, among the hurdles that need to be overcome is that Charlestown originally was a separate town until officials allowed its annexation by Boston in the 1840s, long after the actual battle was fought, and thus possibly removing the City of Boston's right to legally designate an area.

Another impediment is that there seems to be little legislative support at this juncture. In addi-

tion, there must be a consensus regarding what sites should be recognized. "This is an uphill battle to make sure that this is not forgotten," Hynes said.

After the meeting Hynes issued the following statement: "On Tuesday, April 11, a group of Charlestown residents gathered at the American Legion Post 26 to participate in a community discussion regarding an opportunity to support a proposal for the formation of a Historic Battlefield District study committee. In attendance were officers of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, as well as members of various historical organizations including the Charlestown Neighborhood Council, Charlestown Historical Society, Charlestown Preservation Society, volunteers for the Bunker

Hill Day parade committee, and of course, supporters of the American Legion Post 26.

"As it stands, the events/sites of June 17, 1775, also known as the Battle for Bunker Hill, are not listed on any local, state, or national register. The purpose of this study process is to provide legal remedy for these significant historical veterans' omissions. Over 45 people attended the meeting and a motion was made from the floor to support the proposed process to study, document, and present findings for legislative remedy. The motion was seconded, and followed with a request of those present in the room to either accept or deny the motion: the full motion was accepted without amendment."

The group's next meeting date will be in early June.

Coletta holds budget town halls across the district

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta recently held five Budget Town Halls Tour in District One, where she outlined the City's budget process, discussed initial priorities in advocacy, and solicited suggestions from constituents about their priorities in the upcoming fiscal year 2024 budget. Each town hall focused on specific issues related to Charlestown, East Boston, and the North End, as well as immigrant populations and our youth.


"Thank you to the neighbors and advocates that joined my budget town halls across the district. Boston's budget is a fiscal document demonstrating our City values. It was a pleasure connecting about affordable housing, expanding our tree canopy, pest control, stormwater infrastructure, parking enforcement, climate resilience, and much more," said Councilor Gabriela Coletta "As budget season approaches, I look forward to continuing to discuss budget priorities and encourage you all to get involved in the upcoming hearings held in the

Boston City Council."

This cycle is the second time district and at-large councilors have the ability to reject, reduce, pass, or amend line items (i.e., accounts such as personnel, contracted services, equipment, etc.) in the City Budget. After being in office for over a month in 2022, Councilor Coletta secured funding for expanding our parks and tree canopy, trash pick-ups, reforms to the BOS:311 platform, and the Immigrants Lead Boston program.

During Councilor Coletta's budget town halls, constituents were able to learn more about the city's budget process, ask questions about the fiscal year operating and capital budget, and how allocations are decided to different city departments. The Budget Season will commence on April 12, 2023, with hearings where all are welcome to attend and offer their testimonies at the upcoming budget hearings to share their budget priorities. To learn more about the budget process and how to get involved, please visit <https://www.boston.gov/finance/fiscal-year-2024>.

For additional information please contact the Office of Councilor Gabriela Coletta by phone at (617) 635-3200 or by email at gabriela.ramirez@boston.gov.




Virtual Public Meeting

One Mystic Avenue

May 1, 2023
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3mthQQp
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 371 1654



Project Proponent:
Fulcrum Global
Investors, LLC

Project Description:
The proposed project consists of the demolition of the existing structures occupying the site and the construction of an approximately 480,680 square-foot mixed-use building with up to 636 residential units, retail/commercial space, and approximately 171 off-street vehicle parking spaces.


mail to: **Sarah Black**
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phone: 617.918.4282
email: sarah.black@boston.gov
website: www.bit.ly/1MysticAvenue

Close of Comment Period:
4/19/2023

Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

[BostonPlans.org](https://bostonplans.org)

 @BostonPlans

Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

EDITORIAL

53 EARTH DAYS LATER, OUR PLANET IS FAR WORSE

This Saturday, April 22, will mark the 53rd anniversary of Earth Day, the movement that is credited with bringing the issue of environmentalism into the forefront of public thought and opinion.

To be sure, many of the objectives of the environmental movement since that first Earth Day have been achieved. Compared to 1970, our air and water are cleaner. The haze of smog that hung over our major cities each and every day is not as bad as it was 50 years ago and here in the Boston area, Boston Harbor is an example of the progress that has been attained in cleaning up our waterways.

But despite the visible progress we have made, the overall health of our planet unquestionably is far worse than it was five decades ago. "Climate change" and "global warming" were terms that were unheard of then, but now we know that just about everything we do --driving our cars, heating our homes, producing the food we eat, and making just about everything with plastics -- releases greenhouse gases and other chemicals that are altering our environment with grave consequences for life on the planet.

The wild weather recently in Ft. Lauderdale, in which that city was inundated by 20 inches of rain that brought the city to a standstill, was deemed a "1000-year event" by the National Weather Service.

But the reality is that in 2023, 1000-year events are occurring somewhere every year, to say nothing of 100-year events that are happening almost every month.

The future reality is that carbon emissions will not be coming down anytime soon and even if they do, there is so much heat trapped in our oceans and in the atmosphere that it may be too late to stop the dreaded feedback loop that will accelerate climate change.

Yes, we're old enough to remember the hoopla that accompanied the first Earth Day, a movement that was catalyzed when a river in Cleveland that essentially was a toxic cesspool caught fire when a spark from the shore ignited the volatile chemicals in the river.

Back in those days, we had hope that things would be better.

We never imagined that five decades later, the degradation of our environment would pose an existential threat to life and civilization as we know it -- but that's the reality we are confronting in 2023.

LOGAN AIRPORT WAS A BREEZE

We hadn't flown for a while because of the pandemic and other reasons, so we approached our recent vacation with some trepidation, particularly as we contemplated our air travel.

However, we are happy to report that traversing to, through, and from Logan Airport actually was a pleasant experience. We took the boat to Logan, caught the shuttle bus to our terminal, and made it through security within 10 minutes. Our terminal (Terminal B) was crowded, but not overly so, and there were plenty of seats with outlets for our electronic devices.

Returning home, we found the signage to ground transportation was clear and straightforward as we made our way to the Silver Line -- which, by the way, was free of charge -- in order to get to South Station.

We recently wrote about our travails on the Red Line, in which we highlighted all of the problems facing the MBTA, almost all of which are directly related to a decades-long lack of funding for public transportation at the federal and state levels.

However, in comparison to the other airports we visited during our vacation (JFK and Miami), Logan overall offered a superb experience (including better restaurants!).

So we wish to tip our hat to Massport and the T (which operates the ferry boat and the Silver Line) for their smooth operations at Logan Airport.

Even Massport's critics (as we have been for decades) have to concede that its various operations are a huge driver of our economy that contribute to our region's prosperity in countless ways. A smooth-functioning Logan Airport is a key piece of that ecosystem and we are happy to report that our recent experience was a highly-positive one.

LETTER to the Editor

THE HELM PROPOSAL: WHAT ABOUT?

To the Editor,

On Thursday, April 13th Charlestown showed up!

We showed up to ask very specific questions and address very real, specific concerns regarding the proposed YMCA sale of the Constitution Inn to the St. Francis House for the Homeless.

This was the second Charlestown Community Meeting at large, the second opportunity to have the St. Francis House, the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, the YMCA correct the misleading and inaccurate use of "affordable" housing in their discussion when indeed 64 units will be dedicated to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for formerly homeless individuals should this project come to fruition. This Permanent Supportive Housing project would attempt to support a population larger than anything the St. Francis House has experience servicing and in a neighborhood (Charlestown) they have no experience supporting.

We continue to hear about the need for "compassion", for empathy, for our support of the homeless.

We are not the community of individuals project proponents continue to portray us as. We do hold very real feelings and concerns for our homeless. We understand and acknowledge that they suffer from very complex physical, mental, emotional and behavioral problems. These problems take 24/7 professional assistance and services. Our homeless need, deserve more than the Helm developers and some of our elected officials allude to; more than this community can even come close to providing.

Many of us in our Charlestown Community support the homeless by volunteering, donating funds, donating clothing, "white socks for the homeless", and work with our homeless in their professional capacities.

Charlestown cares. Charlestown has compassion.

But! What about the residents of Charlestown? Residents who have lived in this town for generations, raised their families, served their country, worked two or more jobs to provide for not only their families but contribute to the needs of those less fortunate in this life?

What about the young families that came to Charlestown to pro-

vide a safe home for their children; a true community?

What about all our dog owners that walk at all hours of the day and night; our runners and walkers that come to the Navy Yard to exercise and enjoy the benefits the Boston Harbor provides?

What about the seniors that could no longer live in the houses and apartments they enjoyed for years; for generations and now live in "affordable" housing and will no longer feel safe walking to the store, for a walk around the Harborwalk alone or with friends?

What about our neighbors in recovery that have done the work; do the work every day of their lives and have found stability and support in Charlestown? What challenges does this project create for them?

What about individuals, families that come to the Navy Yard to play in the playgrounds and sit by the water on a hot summer night?

What about residents who depend on the Mass General Brigham shuttle and could potentially lose this service if it is "overburdened" and may no longer be in a position to service the proposed Helm residents in addition to staff, patients and the numerous residents it supports now?

What about the students attending the MGH Institute? What about the tourists that come to "historical" Charlestown?

What about the children attending after school programs, birthday parties, swim lessons at the YMCA located at the proposed Helm? What happens when families and individuals no longer feel "safe", feel "comfortable" using the YMCA?

What about the medical clinics in Charlestown that are

already struggling to provide services to current residents, to our neighbors in recovery?

What about our Charlestown Police Officers that know firsthand what this proposal will mean to our community which is overwhelmed with problems related to drug and alcohol addiction, felons, and abuse?

What about the disabled that live in Charlestown because of its proximity to Spaulding Rehabilitation; that may be more vulnerable as they navigate the streets in wheelchairs and other supportive devices?

What about those of us that call Charlestown "home" NOW?

Compassion for us? Empathy for us? Concern for us?

I'm sorry I have yet to hear it from the St. Francis House, from some of the very people we supported in the past and voted into office.

Again, "what about Charlestown"?

Kathia Capellupo

WHERE'S THE DECORUM?

To the Editor,

This communication is written to express my disappointment and sadness regarding the meeting held on the April 13, at the Knights of Columbus concerning the Helm project.

After a comprehensive presentation by the proponents of the project as well as a brief evaluation of the entire project by Dr. Jim O'Connell, comments and suggestions followed by the CNC members.

Unfortunately, one of the coun-

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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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Letters // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

cil members asked the audience to clap if they were opposed to this project. There was then thunderous applause, noise and table banging. This was an unheard of ask and injected a harmful atmosphere of “mob mentality” setting the stage for unruly behavior and an out-of-control atmosphere. No council member should ever do this as it seemed to give permission that anything goes. Heckling followed.

As my husband was the first to speak and advocate for why he believed this project was worthwhile, he was immediately confronted with “Ask the question”, “What is the question?”

He had listened to the presentation, listened to Dr. O’Connell’s testimony in favor of the project and he didn’t have any questions to ask.

My husband is a seasoned speaker and can easily deliver credible remarks. This “bullying” by some in the crowd shook him to the core. He was unable to speak any further. Nobody was interested in what he had to say it seemed. As for myself, how could I get up and speak in favor of this project? I, myself had no questions either. I refused to be heckled by this raucous crowd and endure their putdowns. We both, unwillingly left the meeting. We never had the opportunity to hear the rest of the speakers, unfortunately.

Why am I writing this? I am writing this to ask the Chairman and the rest of the council members why this happened? Why didn’t the Chairman or a member of the CNC have the courage and commonsense to ask for an orderly atmosphere and respectful audience that this behavior would not be tolerated? This wasn’t done. This is not the way a public meeting should be run. Sadly, those of us who wanted to voice an opinion were subjected to “bullying.”

This is unacceptable. Stunts such as “clapping” and setting a toxic tone have no place in a public forum where people need to be heard, welcomed and feel valued for their input.

Some background: Dr. Jim O’Connell, who has been advocating for the marginalized and homeless since the mid-eighties is known not only around Boston but nationally and internationally for what he does. He would never advocate for this project if it was not in the best interest for the folks in need of housing or put in a neighborhood that would be a bad fit.

Having worked with Dr. Jim

O’Connell for more than a decade, there is nobody that cares and advocates more for the homeless or “those people” as I have heard them referred to. “Those people” could be any of us. I have listened to their stories and they not “bad” people. They are human beings in need of help.

As an aside, I recently saw a flyer stating that the housing would go to homeless people with “active drug use and mental illness”. The Navy Yard needs to be saved from “those people.” This is vicious and wrong, but that’s what the word is around the Navy Yard and Charlestown. Distributing false information is sad and uncalled for. What kind of people go around distorting the facts of what the Helm is about? And what is it teaching our children and grandchildren.

The only good I got out of this sorry meeting was a quote my son sent to my husband on the meeting day. “The Time is Always Right to Do What Is Right.”- Martin Luther King, Jr.

My children and grandchildren are not tasked with or asked to help serve a meal at a homeless shelter, or simply sit and have a conversation, or just listen to “those people”. They ask us when can they go? This past Christmas, their ask was, “can we go to the Pine Street Inn and help with serving?”

We are truly blessed and will continue our efforts to advocate for homes for people in need. That’s the right thing to do.

Lastly, Dr. O’Connell having been a resident in Charlestown for many years, knows that good and honorable people are the majority but unfortunately, he was subjected to the few who spread vicious lies to keep “those” people out.

Good overcomes evil. And the goodness of Charlestown will shine brightly.

Ann T Kelleher

PROPOSED SALE OF THE CONSTITUTION INN

To the Editor,

To my Charlestown neighbors, and the politicians who serve us,

By now you have heard about the proposed sale of the YMCA owned Constitution Inn to the PUOA/St. Francis House. The property was marketed during the pandemic—not surprisingly with little interest. There are many reasons why this possible transaction—dubbed “The Helm” -- is a poor use of the building, and is

detrimental to Charlestown. Our neighborhood has a robust percentage of affordable/subsidized/ lower income housing; projecting to become the third highest in our city. Expansion of Bunker Hill Housing, and other developments put Charlestown at the tipping point—a critical juncture. And, in a neighborhood poll, 92.6% of respondents are against the proposed Helm.

The Helm project, described in the April 13 Knights of Columbus meeting, as a “housing first” concept, offers a mix of permanent supported subsidized housing. This controversial approach is diametrically opposed to the “treatment first” direction, championed by medical experts with experience with both. (Read the Research section on www.charlestownvoice.com). The Helm’s management philosophy, stated by the St. Francis House President and CEO, Karen LaFrazia, focuses on a roof overhead, not the surrounding neighborhood infrastructure. And, housing people at all different stages of recovery is fraught with peril. Homelessness is a complex issue, with no single cause. Without employment, medical support to end substance abuse, and trauma programs, there cannot be transformation to independent living. The lack of support sends 1 in 5 back to the streets, as documented in some programs.

While many of us agreed to drug testing as a prerequisite to our own employment, there will be no regular drug testing required at the Helm. Especially since the Helm’s resident housing costs are subsidized, it is reasonable for neighbors to require those who are selected for this opportunity, not to commit crimes. During a series of small informational zoom meetings, the St. Francis House initially reallocated resident percentages. These tweaks are ineffective as key success factors are still lacking: location, treatment, tight management, and insistence on clean and sober living.

Charlestown is a small, historic neighborhood. Our micro-economy depends upon tourism, MGH, Spaulding, and our National Park. Transportation is limited; jobs even more so. It is an uphill struggle to exit homelessness, related criminal activity, substance abuse, and other heartbreaking backgrounds. And, Charlestown needs to develop other benefits to grow as a thriving commercial hub. Doing so will help address the root causes of homelessness.

One answer: Select another

neighborhood with close proximity to medical treatment, a grocery store, transportation, and jobs. The West End for instance—a neighborhood with less than ½ of the supportive housing of Charlestown, has had some success with a different model. Homelessness is a city wide problem and all neighborhoods must participate in equitable solutions. The goal: substance free formerly homeless residents, possessing a sense of accomplishment through work. Or, let’s creatively repurpose some downtown offices experiencing vacancies at an all-time high.

The YMCA is a mission-based organization, and one where I am a longstanding member. The Y is dedicated to “providing comprehensive programs and services that enrich communities—and all of the people who live in them... in fulfillment of our mission”. The Helm will not enrich the Charlestown community, nor the formerly homeless who need more services. If the PUOA/St. Francis house is the end user of the Constitution Inn, there must be a strategy (and I quote again from the YMCA mission statement) to build “healthy spirit, mind and body for all.”

A solution is clear-- elected officials must file for a moratorium on the sale to the St. Francis House. The YMCA can select another agent, remarket the property, and surface additional buyers. The Constitution Inn can be designated as exclusively zoned rental housing without the supportive component run by professional apartment management, Charlestown will be part of the solution. After coming so far, Charlestown is eager for a responsible, synergistic, productive neighbor. Whether a hotel, housing for MGH students, Spaulding affiliation, or another end use, we must seek alternatives to the Helm.

Tracy Iannelli Charlestown resident since 1991, YMCA Member, and Charlestown Voice supporter

CONSTITUTION INN RENOVATION HELM ON THIRD PRESENTATION FAILURE

To the Editor,

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) open public meeting on April 13th was an opportunity for the proponents of the Constitution Inn renovation project (Helm on Third) to provide their best arguments for their

proposal to house the homeless in Charlestown. To most of those attending, they failed. The issue was not the need to care for the homeless whose needs are great. Rather, the issues were the defects and gaps in their proposal and the misguided location of Charlestown as the site for any such venture.

The proposal is based on the concept of Permanent Supportive Housing or Housing First. Permanent Supportive Housing by the medical literature definition requires housing for medically fragile homeless individuals without any precondition or prerequisite for treatment of addiction, substance abuse or mental illness or indeed any participation in any treatment program. These individuals are the most complexly ill of any medical population. Increasingly, this housing approach has neither achieved treatment for the underlying causes of homelessness nor reduced the number of homeless individuals.

The most glaring flaw in the Constitution Inn renovation project is the lack in Charlestown of community health and healthcare resources. Primary and specialty care are unavailable. The Mass General Charlestown Healthcare Center is not taking new patients. The New Health Charlestown is not taking behavioral health patients. Charlestown has no urgent care, emergency care or hospital facility. Its one ambulance does not have paramedic staffing. How will these complexly ill individuals obtain health care particularly urgent care in Charlestown where health services they desperately need are unavailable? If moved to Charlestown, these individuals will be at great risk. When asked at the CNC meeting about these deficiencies, the proponents had no answers of substance. Their vague reference to transportation to Boston Medical Center, Tufts or Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program using the Helm’s one van is untenable and reflects lack of thought and planning. Certainly, public transportation is not an option.

The Constitution Inn/Helm on Third proponents started their presentation with an apology for losing the trust of the Charlestown community last October when they asked that the Article 80 community review process be waived. Trust needs to be earned. With their CNC April 13th presentation, they did little to earn any of that trust.

Gerald H. Angoff, MD

Local legislators call for greater emphasis on decarbonization in MBTA capital plan

By Adam Swift

Local legislators want to see the MBTA place a greater emphasis on electrification of its rail, bus, and subway systems in its latest capital improvement plan.

On Thursday, April 13, the MBTA held the last of its three public input sessions on a proposed FY 2024 to 2028 five-year capital improvement plan (CIP).

The public comment period on the draft plan, which includes 600 capital projects across 30 MBTA departments totalling \$9.2 billion, is open through April 24. The MBTA board would then vote on a final draft of the CIP in May, according to T officials.

“Reliability and modernization investments account for the majority of the planned investments, representing \$8.7 billion,” said Jillian Linnell, the Senior Director for Capital Program Planning at the MBTA. “There are also 10 expansion projects totalling just over half a billion dollars.”

Linnell noted that over the past

five to seven years, the MBTA has dramatically increased its overall capital spending and that it continues to sustain an unprecedented level of investment focused on the safety and reliability of the system, the modernization of assets, and the strategic expansion of the network.

“Many of these capital investments have been in the works for a number of years and continue to produce real and significant improvements to the condition of the MBTA’s many assets,” she said. “Many of these are well known and underway investments, including the SouthCoast Rail, (Green Line expansion), fare transformation, a number of notable vehicle procurements such as the Red Line and Orange Line vehicles and the Green Line Type 10 vehicles, hybrid buses, and the bilevel commuter rail coaches.”

Also included in the CIP are the Quincy bus facility modernization project, the safety-critical Green Line train protection project, track

and signal work, automatic train control implementation, and the North Street drawbridge replacement.

Linnell said the MBTA is also looking at additional funding of just under \$1 billion in the CIP that was programmed across the five-year CIP window.

That money will be used to help fund a total of 78 programs, 43 of which are new.

Lynn State Senator Brendan Crighton, who chairs the Senate’s transportation committee, said he and several other local legislators in the MBTA’s environmental justice corridor will continue to push for the electrification and decarbonization of the MBTA fleets.

“Four years ago, I shared similar testimony before the fiscal management control board, which approved Phase 1 of the commuter rail electrification project, including the Fairmont Line,” said Crighton.

Crighton said electrification and decarbonization would especially affect the environmental justice corridor, which includes portions of the Newburyport-Rockport Line as well as the Providence Line.

“The benefits of decarbonizing our commuter rail network are many, we can take cars off the road, we can reduce emissions, improve public health outcomes, and create easier access to jobs by

modernizing and electrifying our system,” said Crighton. “We can improve reliability, frequency, and affordability, which will help bring riders back to the commuter rail.”

While the CIP creates a section related to regional rail, Crighton said the modest funding shows no specifics around the funding for Phase 1 of the regional rail electrification project.

“We don’t know the specific investments that will be made in the next five years to move this important effort forward,” said Crighton. “This document only includes generic language for future rolling stock and rail transformation planning studies. A CIP should be a declaration of the MBTA’s short-term goals and long-term vision.”

Crighton said he would also like to see more progress on the decarbonization of the MBTA’s bus fleet.

“I know the T is very much committed to this effort,” said Crighton. “This document includes funding to support the bus electrification strategy with a target completion of 2040, but for both rail and bus decarbonization efforts, we would like to see more effort and a more specific breakdown of these investments in this CIP.”

Crighton also stated that while track power, signal, and communication upgrades have been

a priority in recent years and a lot of funding has gone toward work that is vital for addressing the backlog to keep the system in good repair, there are still speed restrictions and slow zones along the subway lines.

“We would like to see this document include an update on the scope of work that has been completed, what additional work needs to be done, and the schedule for the remaining work,” said Crighton. “Our riders deserve to know when they can expect a system running at full speed again.”

Crighton said many of the concerns he addressed were submitted previously in a letter signed by legislators in the environmental justice corridor, including state Senators Sal DiDomenico, Lydia Edwards, and Joan Lovely and state Representatives Dan Cahill, Jessica Giannino, Peter Capano, Dan Ryan, Donald Wong, Manny Cruz, and Jennifer Armini.

MBTA’s senior director of rail transformation, Alistair Sawers, said the T is making a major investment and outreach to look at new equipment to decarbonize. He noted that any investment in diesel locomotives is for repair work to existing trains to keep service running as it is now.

“We fully plan to invest in an electric fleet,” Sawers said.

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Friends of Ryan “Duce” Morrissey Scholarship Fund



The Friends of Ryan “Duce” Morrissey Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that scholarships totaling \$27,500 will be offered in 2023.

Scholarships are available to college freshman, college upperclassmen, and high school students. Details and application forms may be obtained from our website. www.ryanmorriseyscholarship.com
Questions: ryanmorriseyscholarship@gmail.com

PLAN (from pg. 2)

BPDA has indicated they have gotten a majority of feedback on the maximum height for future development, questions about transportation impacts, support for aspects like the open space and transportation aspects of the scenario, and comments about new housing.

While the scheduled office hours have come and gone, the BPDA is providing several opportunities for residents to give feedback.

These opportunities include a presentation at the Charlestown Neighborhood Council (CNC) on Wednesday, Apr. 26, as well as future meetings with other groups, such as the Charlestown Mothers

Association (CMA), the Sullivan Square Residents Association, and CharlesNewtown.

The BPDA is also hosting a Walking Tour on Saturday, Apr. 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. that begins at the Community College T stop for residents to learn more about the neighborhood and potential scenarios for the area.

Finally, the BPDA is also planning to have coffee hours at Mishawum and do some tabling around the neighborhood.

“If residents have an idea of where we should be, or want to invite us to present and hear feedback from your community group,

please reach out to Jason Ruggiero at jason.ruggiero@boston.gov,” said a BPDA spokesperson.

The same BPDA spokesperson also encouraged residents to get involved if they have questions or feedback about the scenario. The feedback will be used to make updated plans slated to be revealed this summer.

To learn more about this scenario, PLAN: Charlestown as a whole, and to fill out a feedback survey, you can visit <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/plan-charlestown>.

CNC (from pg. 1)

has been designated as the portion of Charlestown slated for the most development under the Plan:Charlestown scenarios so stop by to share your comments and concerns.

Meeting/Event Updates: Council and committee meetings, as well as Council coffee hours are listed and updated on the CNC

calendar, cnc02129.org. Our general and committee meetings are open to the public - so residents do not need an invitation to attend and are not required to RSVP or reserve a space. However, if you would like to receive a calendar invitation for an event and email updates with important meeting updates, then just click an event’s

‘Add to Calendar’ button and provide your email address. Coffee hours are informal drop-in events scheduled by council members to connect with residents. Contact us anytime at cnc02129@gmail.com and find updates on CNC02129.org. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Our Senior Life

Why early detection of Lung Cancer is so important

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. While early detection can vastly improve a patient's chances to lead a full and healthy life, the majority of those who are high risk are not getting screened.

The American Lung Association, which is committed to defeating lung cancer and supporting those with the disease, is sharing vital information to help more people learn their risk and connect them to screenings and other life-saving resources:

Preventable Deaths

According to the 2022 "State of Lung Cancer" report, a mere 5.8% of Americans eligible for a low-dose computed tomography (CT) scan were screened. A low-dose CT scan is a special kind of X-ray that takes multiple pictures as the patient lies on a table that slides in and out of the machine. A computer then combines these images into a detailed picture of the lungs. Studies estimate that if even just half of the approximately 8 million Americans identified as high risk for lung cancer were screened with a low-dose CT scan, over 12,000 lung cancer deaths could be prevented. In fact, since low-dose CT scans started to be used for screening, it has reduced cancer deaths by 20% and it has reduced deaths from other causes by almost 7%.

Risk Eligibility

Many people who are at risk for lung cancer and are eligible for screening are not identified and are not referred for screening. Under the most recent lung cancer screening guidelines, those ages 50-80 who have a 20 pack-year smoking history or who have quit smoking in the past 15 years should get screened for lung cancer.

The American Lung Association offers a helpful tool for determining your eligibility

can.org.

Eliminating Racial Disparities

It is especially important for Black men and women to speak to their health care provider about their risk and get screened if necessary, as they are more likely to develop lung cancer and less likely to survive five years with the disease than people of any other racial or ethnic group.

Research suggests that Black Americans have a higher baseline risk for developing lung cancer -- Black American smokers get lung cancer at least 20% more often than other people who smoke. Furthermore, systemic racism and injustices and issues continue to persist in the healthcare system, and Black people and other communities of color are less likely to be diagnosed early, less likely to receive surgical treatment, and more likely to not receive any treatment at all.

Fighting Barriers

Despite the fact that lung cancer screening is extremely effective at improving life expectancy and has the potential to dramatically improve lung cancer survival rates, many patients are not getting screened, even when they have a referral from their doctor to do so. The reasons for low screening adherence range from practical concerns, such as financial and transportation barriers, to more elusive issues like distrust of the medical system and lack of awareness regarding

disease.

Emerging resources are helping eliminate these barriers and are making it easier for people to assess their screening eligibility, locate screening centers, schedule appointments, and receive financial assistance if they don't have insurance or transportation. Free tobacco cessation resources and other lung health resources also exist to help people to reduce their risk. To learn more, visit www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases.org or speak directly to a nurse or respiratory therapist by calling the Lung HelpLine at 1-800-LUNG-USA.

When lung cancer is detected and treat-

ed in its earliest stages, more positive outcomes can be expected. That's why it's so important that everyone learns their risk and connects to resources to help them get screened. (StatePoint)



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CELEBRATING PATRIOTS DAY WITH REENACTMENT OF PAUL REVERE’S FAMOUS RIDE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

Patriots Day is more than the day the Boston Marathon is held, it’s also the day that commemorates the Battle Of Lexington And Concord as well as Paul Revere’s Ride to warn residents that the British Army was on their way.

This fateful ride was reenacted with National Lancers portraying Paul Revere and William Dawes rode into City Square Park on their quest to follow the path made over 200 years ago.



Madeline Chute and Eloise Goldstone.



Katie and Oliver Schramm.



Tom Slaman, husband of Ken Stone who was Governor and one of the founding members of Friends of City Square Park, attended the event his late- husband drew in to the park and for whom is now dedicated.



Historic reenactors Tom Coots portraying Deacon John Larkin, National Lancers Captain Andrew Tobin portraying Paul Revere, and Paul Lane portraying 1775 Charlestown selectman Richard Devens.



With historic reenactor Paul Lane portraying 1775 Charlestown selectman Richard Devens listening on: Harvard-Kent School 3rd graders Thomas Adamonis and Isabela Mukhooy read Henry Longfellow’s poem Paul Revere’s Ride.



Tom Coots with Diane Valle and grandson James Valle Gilchrist.



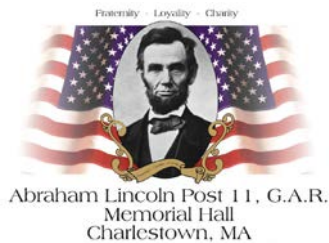
National Lancers Captain Andrew Tobin on Rebel as Paul Revere and Brown Beauty.

VETERANS' BENEFITS RESOURCE FORUM

Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 10am - 2pm |
Memorial Hall, 14 Green Street, Charlestown

This **FREE** event sponsored by Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R. provides an opportunity for Veterans to meet representatives from State and Local Veterans' organization for the purpose of introducing veterans to the benefits that they may have available to them through these groups. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

- Boston Veterans Center – Clifford Coy
- VA Boston – David Hencke
- Veterans Benefits Administration – Hillary Brown
- Disabled American Veterans – Stanley Pratt
- Mass. Executive Offices of Veterans Services
- City of Boston Veterans Services – Representative
- Teamsters Local 25 Representative with employment opportunities



Many veterans, young and old, are not completely familiar with the benefits for which they are eligible. This forum makes it possible for veterans to drop in between the hours of 10:00 and 2:00 to ask questions, seek guidance, or just get some information or employment opportunities. The objective is to make it easy to get the information by bringing these varied resources to one place at one time to meet with veterans.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT PIER 5!

APRIL 22
Saturday 12-3pm

Everyone is Welcome!
Celebrate, Participate, Play
Charlestown Navy Yard

www.pier5.org



CELEBRATING PATRIOTS DAY WITH REENACTMENT OF PAUL REVERE'S FAMOUS RIDE

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Shannon and Everett Fry.



Despite the rainy day, City Square Park was filled with onlookers waiting to see a reenactment of history.



Spectators spot Paul Revere riding in from the North End.



National Lancer Sgt. Colin Vinomano on Whiskey bids farewell to their new, soggy friends.



Kids line up to get a closer look at the horses: Rebel playing Brown Beauty, the horse that Paul Revere rode that fateful night and Whiskey playing the horse that William Dawes rode.



Emily, Maeve, and Sandy Haynes.



Paul and Christine Lane with their grandson Noah Pipilas.



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MGH Institute of Health Professions's Sleeper Center Expands Nursing Services into Charlestown

By Sean Hennessey

Nursing students Claire Johanna and Jenna Murray sat down on a couch in the tidy Charlestown apartment, eagerly awaiting the entrance of Lena Doherty, one of several clients to be examined as part of the monthly home visit program from the MGH Institute of Health Professions' Ruth Sleeper Center for Clinical Education and Wellness.

"Good morning," said Doherty, a spry 81-year-old who lives in the Robert A. Georgine Towers on Ferrin Street, a publicly supporting housing community for seniors.

"Good morning," replied Johanna and Murray, who are part of an outreach rotation for the Sleeper Center, a student-led clinical learning environment that provides free health resources to community clients.

It was the students' first-time meeting Doherty, so they began by explaining that they were going to do, a thorough health history

interview to determine Doherty's health, and that would dictate how the rest of the visit would go and what kind of attention the senior might need.

Using equipment made possible through a grant from the MGH Nurses Alumni Association, the students went to work.

Along with apartment visits, the Sleeper Center is leveraging a \$3,000 grant from the MGH Nurses Alumni Association to establish a more permanent presence at the Ferrin Street senior housing tower. A wellness program is now up and running. Situated in the corner of the community room are supplies students will need for their visits – nurse's bags, O2 sat monitors, stethoscopes, and blood pressure monitors. There's also space where residents can meet with a nurse – a reminder of the Sleeper Center's presence.

The outreach is typical of how the Sleeper Center is making a difference and expanding beyond the four walls of the Sanders IMPACT



MGH Institute of Health Professions nurse practitioner students Jenna Murray (middle) and Claire Johnson visit with client Lena Doherty in her Robert A. Georgine Towers apartment on Ferrin Street.

Practice Center in the Charlestown Navy Yard.

"It's important to get out into the community and bring our services to them," said Dr. Kathy Sabo, Director of the Sleeper Center. "These home visits really give our students a clear picture of what it means to be a community dwelling individual who has one or two chronic illness and a low income to manage everything that's going on

related to their health."

Assessing in the Navy Yard

Enhancing the healthcare of Charlestown and Greater Boston residents – for free – has been the primary focus of the Sleeper Center since its inception in 2018. Support services are provided by IHP nurse practitioner students and are supervised by licensed nursing faculty. The Center specializes in helping clients with chronic illness-

es – diabetes, cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, arthritis and those who have suffered a stroke.

"This is a real special place, it's like a diamond in the rough," said Lisa A. Sims, a stroke survivor with diabetes and other chronic diagnoses who has been coming to the Sleeper Center for about five years. "I really feel like for that hour I have their full attention. And I really feel that when I'm talking, they're listening."

"Clients who need a little bit more care, those who either can't afford to see their PCP every single week, or if their PCP is too busy, for them, going to the Sleeper Center is a stop gap," said MGH Institute student Brian Tong. "The students make sure the medications are all up to date and see if there are any new issues."

The Sleeper Center sees about 50 clients a year who receive either mental health supportive counseling, primary care, or both. The Center is looking to expand its capacity; more clients will mean more students can participate in the lessons learned there.

Something that will help the Center attract more clients is interpreter services, which will be paid for by another \$3,000 grant it received from the MGH Nurses Alumni Association.

"If we're reaching out to clients of different cultural and language needs, we need to communicate, and right now those are services we currently do not have," said Sabo. "This will provide some funding to do that. Whether we're going to another site in the community, or having clients coming in who need interpreter services, we'll be able to say, 'Yes, we have that available."



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11:30-3:30PM

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Opening Reception:
Friday April 28th 5:30-8:30 PM.

Exhibit Hours:
Saturday 4/29, 12:00-4:00 Saturday 5/6, 12:00-4:00
Sunday 4/30, 12:00-4:00 Sunday 5/7, 12:00-4:00

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How to get rid of crabgrass and maintaining a healthy lawn

Weeds can be unsightly in an otherwise perfect, healthy lawn. Not only are they sometimes ugly, but they also compete with your lawn for space, sunlight, water and other nutrients! One of the most notorious weeds known for its difficulty to control is crabgrass. If you're one of the unlucky homeowners who have crabgrass in their lawn—not to worry! Read on to learn more about how to get rid of crabgrass.

What is crabgrass?

Along with goosegrass, crabgrass is a pervasive weed found throughout the continental United States that many lawn owners struggle to control.

As an annual weed, crabgrass remains present in the landscape for one growing season, which usually begins in the late spring and early summer after the soil temperature has reached a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees for over five days.

Once the plants germinate, they will continue to grow until the days begin to shorten, causing them to enter a reproductive stage. During this time, plants produce seed (up to 150,000 per plant!) until the first frosts of the fall hit and knock them out.

Even if crabgrass isn't visible in your lawn during the fall and winter, if the plant was able to set seed, prepare to begin fighting it again in warmer weather.

What does crabgrass look like?

Appropriately named, crabgrass grows close to the ground and has branching stems resembling crab legs. Large crabgrass tends to have a dense coating of hair while smooth crabgrass does not. In smooth crabgrass, you can occasionally spot a pinkish red center where the grass is growing from.

A crabgrass seed head grows from different parts of the stems and has soft little spikes growing from them.

How to get rid of crabgrass

If you've identified crabgrass early on and only a few weeds are present, it can be pulled by hand and may not grow back again. However, if crabgrass turns into a recurring problem or is too extensive to pull by hand, many chemical options serve as crabgrass killers. Some methods for controlling crabgrass are by using a pre-emergent or post-emergent herbicide.

How to Kill Crabgrass

Chemical control is often the best approach if crabgrass has spread throughout your lawn. As previously mentioned, crabgrass



produces up to 150,000 seeds per plant, so chemical control may be more effective.

While there are many herbicide options available, they will typically fall under one of the following categories: pre-emergent herbicides and post-emergent herbicides. Both types are typically necessary for controlling crabgrass since it's such a tricky weed.

Start by using a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent crabgrass... it's more effective.

Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent weeds from appearing while post-emergents are used to treat currently existing weeds. Use pre-emergents before the first frost in your area in the fall and before soil temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

One option is Dimension 2EW (active ingredient dithiopyr), which has a long-lasting window and can kill seeds that germinate at various times. This product has also been effective as an early post-emergent herbicide against crabgrass. The timing of the application is everything. The success of the application will depend on getting it out before the seeds germinate, so pay close attention to the changing temperature!

Pre-emergents are often the most effective method for controlling crabgrass. Once it appears in your lawn, it becomes harder to control.

Use a post-emergent herbicide when weeds are currently present.

If crabgrass has already established itself, the question then becomes "what kills crabgrass?". A crabgrass post-emergent herbicide will be necessary at this point in the game. Even if you applied a pre-emergent on time, it's good to apply a post-emergent to kill any current crabgrass weeds before they begin spreading.

For post-emergent control, Meso 4SC Select (active

ingredient mesotrione) is a newer product that looks promising at minimizing crabgrass competition so that your lawn can flourish. However, this product should not be applied on zoysia grass as it will kill the lawn.

Drive XLR8 is a tried and true method of control that when applied correctly, is extremely effective.

Lastly, Spectracide Weed Stop For Lawns + Crabgrass Killer is a great weed control product that controls over 250 various types of weeds and easily hooks up to the end of your garden hose.

If nothing else works, spot-treat the weed with a non-selective herbicide.

This is often a last-resort option and should be optional. If you've applied both a pre- and post-emergent herbicide and still see crabgrass, consider spot-treating it with a non-selective herbicide.

Non-selective herbicides will kill any and all vegetation it comes in contact with, which is why you should spot-treat it to kill crabgrass. You'll use a liquid non-selective herbicide, tank-mix it in a spray-tank and apply directly to the weed with a nozzle.

Selective herbicides, on the other hand, only kill the weeds listed on their product labels.

When crabgrass cannot be controlled by maintenance practices alone and a chemical must be applied, make sure to read the label carefully to ensure that it will not cause any damage to your lawn and is compatible with your type of grass.

Non-chemical control of crabgrass

There are many control options available to help ensure that this season is the last time crabgrass invades your lawn. Some natural prevention methods to strengthen your lawn include:

1. Raising the mowing height:

This will help keep the soil cool by keeping the sunlight out, making it more difficult for the crabgrass to germinate and take over.

2. Watering deeply once a week: Avoid light irrigation that would allow weed seed to germinate, and make sure your lawn is well watered and healthy before germination begins.

3. Avoid fertilizing in the summer: Make sure fertilizer is applied before the crabgrass begins, this will keep your lawn thick and give it the upper hand.

Can you pull crabgrass?

Yes, you can pull crabgrass by hand and with a small garden shovel. Crabgrass can be hard to remove, so watering the soil around it might make it easier to pull the weed. The only risk with this is that they must be pulled early in the season before crabgrass has enough time to produce a bunch of seed.

With that being said, it's also better to pull crabgrass if it's younger. Larger, established crabgrass has seed heads that will drop into the soil and grow more in its place.

Where does crabgrass grow?

Crabgrass is a strong weed. It can be found in any type of grass including zoysia, bermuda grass, St. Augustine, centipede, fescues and others.

Additionally, you can spot this weed in lawns, athletic settings, commercial landscapes, gardens and more. It likes to grow in hot, dry conditions with poor soil quality and easily takes over lawns that are heat stressed.

What causes crabgrass?

As previously mentioned, crabgrass prefers warm, dry environments with poor soil quality. Mowing the grass too low can encourage its growth in addition to light watering.

How does crabgrass grow?

Crabgrass spreads and reproduces by seed. It can produce up to 150,000 seed per plant. Mowing over crabgrass can also spread the seed it produces throughout other areas of your lawn.

When does crabgrass germinate?

This ultimately depends on your geographic location. It usually begins germinating in the late spring and early summer after the soil temperature has reached a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees for over five days.

When does crabgrass die?

Crabgrass is an annual, meaning the same plant won't keep showing up year after year. It typically dies when colder weather

ensues and once it's been hit by a frost.

How to get rid of crabgrass in the summer

The best way to get rid of crabgrass in the summer is to remove it by hand. This can be risky if the crabgrass plant is mature with a lot of weeds. Once it is pulled, follow up by planting seed or grass plugs in the open area so that more weeds don't invade.

Water the lawn deeply 1–2 times a week, as crabgrass doesn't prefer moist environments. Mowing at a taller height also discourages remaining crabgrass seed growth.

It's highly recommended to not apply any sort of chemical on the crabgrass during the summer because it can burn and damage your lawn. However, carefully spot-treating it with an effective post-emergent without letting the chemical touch the grass will also kill crabgrass in the summer. To be super safe, consider surrounding the crabgrass plant with some sort of barrier to prevent it from making contact with your lawn.

With either method, be sure to apply a pre-emergent come next spring to prevent future crabgrass growth.

How to kill crabgrass in the spring

Apply a pre-emergent in early spring to prevent crabgrass from growing. Read more about application dates here. Use a post-emergent labeled for crabgrass control on any currently existing weeds.

Can crabgrass be prevented?

Start by using a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent crabgrass... it's more effective.

Pre-emergent herbicides are used to prevent weeds from appearing.

Use pre-emergents before the first frost in your area in the fall and before soil temperatures reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Additionally, maintaining a healthy lawn with good-quality soil and proper mowing heights will discourage crabgrass growth. Watering the lawn regularly so that the soil doesn't get too dry will also discourage crabgrass growth.

Want to learn more about achieving a great lawn? Check out more Sod University tips here and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

This article was written by Sod Solutions Content Strategist, Valerie Smith. For all media inquiries or for high-resolution photos, contact Cecilia Brown at cecilia@sod-solutions.com.

THE HELM *(from pg. 1)*

another 16 who have shown successful tenancies for at least 18 months.

Finally, the 24 remaining units would be income-restricted, with 16 one-bedrooms and eight two-bedrooms.

As part of the proposal, there will be full-time residential service staffing, full-time dedicated VA services, 24/7 on-site security, two full-time property managers, and more.

Since the plans were first revealed to Charlestown residents, there have been significant concerns with the project. An entire website – <https://charlestownvoice.com/> – has been dedicated to the project, outlining residents' concerns.

One reason this proposal has left a sour taste in residents' mouths and even created flat-out opposition is a lack of trust in the proponents. This distrust stems from a feeling of subpar community engagement voiced during last October's meeting and initial plans from the proponents to waive the Article 80 process – a move they have since backed down from.

Bill Grogan, President of the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), acknowledged that the introduction of the project to the community had created a lack of trust – something he took responsibility for.

"While it was never our intent to proceed without community input, we certainly understand how that was viewed by many of you, and I apologize for that," said Grogan.

Moreover, a sense of opposition to this project has also spawned due to concerns about the proposal. Last Thursday's meeting set out to address concerns and answer many residents' questions about the project.

One of the main concerns residents had regarded safety. Especially considering that a portion of the project's potential tenants includes those who could be dealing with active mental illness and addiction – some of whom could have criminal records.

"It's [the proposal] not something that I would be comfortable with – having a child in one of the four daycares or elderly grandparents or parents living in one of the many elderly buildings there. They're two of the most vulnerable populations – they're on their own, they have nobody with them, they try to manage as best they can, and I get afraid for them," said one resident.

Another resident said, "We have



The Knights of Columbus was packed with residents for the meeting regarding the Helm on Third.

grave concerns about safety and security in this community of all of Charlestown," and asked about CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) checks to learn more about who would be able to live at this potential development.

In response, Kathy Luce, the Vice President and Principal of Maloney Properties, said, "We do a national search as well as the state CORI search, and again, we review someone's history. If somebody has a misdemeanor, likely they wouldn't be rejected."

"If somebody has a very serious violent past, they likely would be rejected," she added – which caused a stir due to the word choice of likely.

Luce expanded on this subject, explaining that each potential resident would have to be looked at on a case-by-case basis to comply with fair housing law.

Another resident voicing her safety concerns asked if a level one sex offender might be able to have residence at the Helm – the response from Karen LaFrazia, St. Francis House's CEO and President, "Anything's possible."

However, Luce clarified LaFrazia's response saying, "No one has information on level one sex offenders – they could be living anywhere. You could have a neighbor and not know it where you're living."

It should also be noted that extensive SORI (Sex Offender Registry Information) checks will also be done for potential tenants. Luce said that "Anyone that has a SORI that shows up, as I said, would be immediately rejected."

Another main concern that residents raised was questioning how tenants who are actively dealing with addiction or mental illness would get the support they need-

ed, especially in the proposed location.

For example, one resident talked about the need for a "24/7 economy" – an area with activity 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide social support.

This resident felt the "24/7 economy" would be necessary to support those tenants mentioned above and seemed skeptical about how the proponents could provide that in an area the resident described as "one of the sleepiest locations."

In response, LaFrazia said, "We are providing many of those social, recreational, education activities on site. We understand the need for people to be able to be engaged in productive activity in their lives, and if it does not already exist in the Navy Yard, then we are embedding that into the programming that's part of the services that we'll be doing."

Moreover, relating to how potential tenants dealing with active addiction or mental illness would get support, there were also concerns about those tenants getting complex medical care in a location that some felt did not have the facilities to provide it.

These aforementioned concerns only scratch the surface of the skepticism from many residents about this proposal. The Charlestown Voice website crowd-sourced 12 questions about the project; according to the site, they felt only three were touched on in a meeting that lasted almost two and a half hours.

Although there were a lot of concerns and questions raised about the project and seemingly significant opposition, a chunk of attendees showed their support for the project.

One resident who had previous-



A resident raises her question about the project.

ly volunteered at the Pine Street Inn said he fully supported the project.

That same resident said in his work at the Pine Street Inn, "I realized one amazing fact – they [those at the Pine Street Inn] were basic human beings who had undergone a difficult life experience ... they needed help."

Another resident shared a story of his uncle who was "taken by alcohol and died on the streets of Worcester" and said, "It's too bad that my uncle did not have a place like the Helm where he could find help."

"We need to remember that everyone who will be living at the Helm is someone's uncle or aunt, son or daughter, father or mother, sister or brother, and that they all have a right to a decent home and to be treated with kindness and respect."

Overall while there are undoubtedly many concerns about the project, a point made by a few residents at the meeting and one that was bolstered by At-Large City Councilor Erin Murphy is important to keep in mind – oppo-

sition or concern about this project is not rooted in indifference or neglect of those battling addiction, those who are homeless or those with mental health issues.

"We have a homeless problem; we need to build more housing, we need affordable housing, we have people that are in recovery or not but need to get off the street – all of that is absolutely true. It doesn't mean we're bad people because we don't think it's [the project] a good fit," said Murphy.

As for the next step in this process – it would be for the proponents to file a letter of intent and begin the Article 80 process. However, Grogan committed to coming back for another meeting before they would go forward.

"Before any filing would occur, we're happy and willing – assuming the development committee invites us back – to come back and share that," said Grogan.

For more information about the proposal and upcoming opportunities to provide feedback, you can visit <https://charlestownvoice.com/> or <https://stfrancishouse.org/the-helm-on-third/>.

Mother's Day cards that support women in need

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Women's Lunch Place (WLP) has launched its annual Mother's Day Card Campaign. Each card supports a week of healthy lunches for a guest of their daytime shelter and advocacy center.

"Thirty years ago, our Mother's Day cards were a way to raise money so we could open for an extra day—Mother's Day," said Paula White, Chief Development Officer at Women's Lunch Place. "Mother's Day is still the only Sunday each year that we open, but the cards have taken on a new life. People love to give and receive them, and the impact is amazing."

Last year, the cards introduced hundreds of new people to the mission of Women's Lunch Place and raised nearly \$200,000 to support their work fighting food insecurity. By funding WLP's Healthy Meals program and individualized services that empower

women to make positive changes in their lives, their cards are a gift that gives back.

This year's Mother's Day card was designed by Deirdre, whose name has been altered to protect her privacy. Deirdre is a friendly and welcoming presence in the WLP community. A traumatic childhood led her to self-medicate, which led to a substance use disorder and homelessness.

Deirdre has since found sobriety and stability at Women's Lunch Place, where she visits nearly every day for nutritious meals, Wellness programming, and Advocacy services. She participates in WLP's addiction recovery program (in partnership with Boston Medical Center), group therapy, and Therapeutic Expressions classes. In March, Deirdre partnered with local artist Janice Hayes-Cha to create a vibrant collage out of repurposed greeting cards.

"Deirdre understates her artistic talent—we noticed her ability when she created a beautiful decoupage design in one of our Therapeutic Expressions classes," said Henry Morris, Marketing and Communications Manager at Women's Lunch Place. "We knew she would be a perfect guest artist to collaborate with Janice for this year's card collage."

Women's Lunch Place Mother's Day cards can be purchased blank or personalized with a message of your choice and sent directly to the recipient. Sponsorships in honor of a loved one that sponsor a day of lunch (\$500), breakfast (\$300), or fresh fruit (\$150) are available in addition to the cards.

Mother's Day cards can be ordered with a few clicks at mothersdaycards.org or picked up in person at Blackstone's of Beacon Hill (40 Charles St.) or Mother Juice (291 Newbury St.).



COURTESY OF WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

Artwork for the Mother's Day cards being offered this year by Mother's Day Card.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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Bouse
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A Petition for S/A - Formal
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G. Brouse, Jr. Of Alpharetta,

GA requesting that the Court
enter a formal Decree and
Order and for such other relief
as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
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Alphareeta, GA be appointed
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bond in unsupervised admin-
istration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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of 05/18/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but
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NEIGHBORHOOD ROUND UP

FRIENDS OF CITY SQUARE PARK BOOK CLUB

Join fellow residents as we read and discuss nature-inspired books, as chosen by the group. If you are interested in joining, please contact Grace Bloodwell, bloodwell@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF RYAN “DUCE” MORRISSEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Friends of Ryan “Duce” Morrissey Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that scholarships totaling \$27,500 will be offered in 2023. The deadline to apply is April 28! Scholarships are available to college freshman, college upperclassmen, and high school students. Details and application forms may be obtained from our website. www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com Questions: ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com

CHARLESTOWN RACE & EQUITY COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The April Community conversation will be held at Peace Park on Tuesday, April 25 at 5:30PM. Join your neighbors, community partners, and Charlestown youth for an intimate circle on perspec-

tives of race and equity in Charlestown. All are welcome.

VETERAN’S RESOURCE FORUM AT MEMORIAL HALL

On Saturday April 22 from 10am to 2pm at Memorial Hall, 14 Green St. there will be a free Benefit Resource Forum for veterans sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Post 11, G.A.R. Many veterans, young and old, are not completely familiar with the benefits for which they are eligible. This forum makes it possible for veterans to drop in to questions, seek guidance, or just get some information on benefits or employment opportunities. The objective is to make it easy to get the information by bringing these varied resources to one place at one time to meet with veterans.

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY AT PIER 5

Celebrate Earth Day at Pier 5 on Saturday, April 22 from 12-3PM.

Celebrate, play, participate. The event will be at Pier 5 on the Harborwalk in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Everyone is Welcome! Visit pier5.org for more information.

EARTH DAY PEACE PARK CLEANUP

All are welcome to join the Peace Park Cleanup on Thurs-

day, April 20 at 3PM. There will be a clean up, as well as planting, games and more. Peace Park is at the Plaza where Lowney Way meets Mt. Vernon St.

HOOD SPRING FEST

Plan ahead to celebrate Spring at Hood Park on Saturday, May 13 11:30AM-3:30PM. There will be Food & Live music and Free kids’ activities. Free parking at the Hood park garage and pets are welcome, too! The event happens at South Plaza - 500 Rutherford Ave.

FREE AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB

Charlestown Lacrosse & Learning Center welcomes all Kindergarten through 9th graders to join our weekly in-person homework support! Homework club runs Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30pm-6:00pm (except for dates on which BPS is closed for weather, school breaks or otherwise) following the BPS school calendar and will run through the end of the school year. Email Blake Riley, clclearningdirector@gmail.com for more information.

STORIES WE TELL ART RECEPTION APRIL 28

A group exhibition featuring members of the Artists’ Group of Charlestown: Martha Starr,

Tim Evans and Carla Quattrocchi opens Friday April 28 with a reception at the Stove Factory Gallery from 5:30-8:30 PM. Visit the show and meet the artists, maybe find a new piece for your home. The Stove Factory Gallery is at 543 Medford St in Charlestown. The exhibit will be open Saturdays and Sundays 12-4PM until May 7. There is free parking at the lot at 511 Medford Street adjacent to the gallery.

HAYDEN ANNOUNCES 2023 COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION DATES

District Attorney Kevin Hayden announced that community non-profit organizations in Suffolk County can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 through his office’s Community Reinvestment Grant (CRG) program.

“It’s more important than ever for our neighborhood-focused service organizations to engage with residents of all ages throughout the county, and I’m looking forward to presenting the next round of funding to help them do that,” Hayden said.

The CRG program will provide funding of up to \$10,000 to 501(c)3 nonprofits that provide programming designed to prevent youth violence, substance use disorder, or substance use treatment

in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. State law allows prosecutors to distribute up to 10 percent of assets seized in narcotics prosecutions to community-based organizations for crime prevention and substance use treatment.

The deadline for submissions is May 19, and Hayden expects to announce grant recipients on June 1.

More information on the CRG program can be found at Community Reinvestment Grant — Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office (suffolkdistrictattorney.com) and the submission forms are available at SCDAO_CRG_RFP_FY23.pdf (squarespace.com).

LOVE YOUR BLOCK CLEAN-UP

The Charlestown Youth Soccer and Charlestown Lacrosse are hosting a Love Your Block Clean-Up site this Saturday, April 22nd at the Charlestown High School Sports Fields and Barry Playground. All are welcome to join. The Clean-Up will start at 9 am and run until 1 pm. Anyone is welcome to join us at the meeting spot which will be behind the storage containers near the Little Mystic walkway. To sign up for our volunteer sheet please email info@charlestownsoccer.com.

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

North Washington Street Bridge construction look-ahead through April 29

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 concrete deck placements
- 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.

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 April 19 time to be announced
- * CELTICS: April 25 time to be announced, April 29 time to be announced.

BPRD Open Space plan comment period now open

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) has announced the opening of the comment period for the public to provide feedback on the 2023-2029 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The plan offers a framework for open space protection and expansion in response to city growth and recreational needs.

The draft plan and comment form are available at boston.gov/open-space-plan for public review. Copies of the draft are also available at the central Boston Public Library in Copley Square and Boston Parks and Recreation Department headquarters at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue. Comments will be accepted via the online form until May 21, 2023.

The OSRP is a wide-ranging document, updated every seven years, that provides a comprehensive property inventory of all public open space, regardless of ownership, and analyzes those spaces to understand how they are meeting the open space needs of city residents.

The Parks Department assessed the current open space system through data analysis, research, mapping and public input. The plan integrates the work of a com-

plementary Parks Department planning project, the Parcel Priority Plan, which identifies the potential open space value of parcels throughout the city to consider for open space protection of acquisition.

The OSRP analysis leads to a set of goals and a Seven-Year Action Plan that will guide the City's parks-related work heading towards 2030. The plan will inform investment, programming, operations, citywide initiatives, and evaluation of ongoing policy work.

Analysis of distribution and access to park land and features provides a picture of where investments and park improvements, or expansion, are needed. Public input provides direction on open space needs and priorities which will be incorporated into future park improvement projects as well as management considerations.

Because parks and open spaces are central to the future health, resilience and livability of Boston, the OSRP complements the Climate Ready Boston reports, the Urban Forest Plan, and the Climate Action Plan. These planning efforts share fundamental objectives to improve quality of life while preparing for climate change.

Hayden announces 2023 Community Reinvestment Grant program application dates

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Wu announces Neighborhood Coffee Hours for Charlestown

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will host the 2023 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin' in parks citywide.

Mayor Wu's Neighborhood Coffee Hours are a unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and their neighborhoods. Through these conversations, and a suggestion box at each site, Mayor Wu looks forward to hearing how the City of Boston can improve upon parks, public areas, and City services.

Participants will enjoy Dunkin' Iced Coffee and assorted Dunkin' Munchkins Donut Hole Treats along with fresh fruit from Star


Market. Additional support is provided by City Express courier service. Each family in attendance will receive a free flowering plant from the Parks Department, while supplies last. Residents at each event will also be eligible to win a raffle prize from Dunkin'.

All coffee hours will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., weather permitting, including at McCarthy-Edwards Playground, located at 10 Eden St. in Charlestown, on Wednesday, May 31.

For more information and updates on possible rain locations, contact the Boston Parks and Recreation Department at 617-635-4505 or [@bostonparksdept](https://twitter.com/bostonparksdept) on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, or by visiting boston.gov/parks.

Real Estate Transfers

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Pollard, Haley S	Dalelio, Michael J	42 8th St #3110	\$729,000
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CITY PAWS

Rescue surprises

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

Rescue dogs come from many different situations. No matter how much information you may have about the dog you choose, you'll only learn the whole story after that animal settles into your home and the true personality and behavior emerge. Typically, this doesn't happen overnight.

Often there is a "honeymoon" period with a new rescue. Initially, dogs spend time adapting to a new space's sights, sounds, smells, and routines. It takes time for a rescue to begin to trust the people around them. Slowly they begin to figure out the cast of characters in this new place.

They learn who they can rely on to feed them or respond when

they need to relieve themselves. A dog will quickly determine who's a pushover, who means what they say, who will share food, and who they shouldn't bother. This goes for other animals in the home as well as people.

As Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D., animal behaviorist, writes, "Fido in one place is not necessarily predictive of Fido in another. Context and the environment plays as big a role in dog behavior as it does in yours. Probably bigger. But let's start with us: Are you the same person during an intense meeting at work as you are when having drinks with friends, just a few hours later?"

Different Starting Points

How much information you

receive about a dog depends on how the animal came into a rescue organization. Little or nothing is known about strays who are picked up on the street and placed in a shelter.

Shelter workers, foster homes, and rescue groups do their best to evaluate the dogs in their care. However, it is ultimately your job to help your new family member to adapt and learn what is expected. We recommend two favorite online resource centers to anyone adopting a dog.

The Best Friends Animal Society has a resource center. They call it "... a comprehensive online library where you'll find information about pet health and training, as well as educational materials and interactive resources for people



This pup was one of our happiest rescue surprises. Despite the reason for his surrender, he was well-behaved and gentle in his forever home.

with pets and rescue workers."

We like the specific guidance they supply on topics like "Understanding and Caring for Rescued Hoarded Dogs," "Training Shelter Dogs," and "Puppy Mill Rescue

Dogs."

You can also rely on the popular adoption website Petfinder.com. They offer a great "Dog Adoption Checklist" and guidance for bringing a new dog home, introducing animals, puppy proofing, and specific behavioral problems.

Happy Surprises

Many purebred breeds have rescue groups that place dogs in foster homes and evaluate their behavior before placing them for adoption. In some cases, these dogs were surrendered to the group by a family who provided background. While that information is helpful, it may not predict how the animal will respond in your home.

One of our happiest rescue surprises was a dog surrendered to a rescue group because it was accused of nipping a child. A family experienced with dogs and without children was selected for us to interview. We recommended the adoption and enjoyed becoming friends with this family. We spent a lot of time with this dog, who was always well-behaved and gentle. The home and the people made this possible.

Yes, rescue dogs come with baggage that you may have to help them unpack. But, for every dog with separation anxiety, leash aggression, or barking, there's another dog who became the well-behaved best friend a person sought when they adopted a rescue.

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

THE HELM ON THIRD COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The Helm on Third

Thank you to everyone that attended the April 13th community meeting hosted by the Charlestown Neighborhood Council at the Knights of Columbus, in addition to everyone we've spoken with in our open small group meetings for the past two months.

We will continue to listen to community feedback and input, including through our new interactive web platform, hosted through coUrbanize, which can be accessed by this QR code. Through this site and ongoing meetings, we will continue discussions with the community, and will stay in touch with everyone throughout the ongoing process for this proposal.



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