



THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE



Above, a group of the older players competing against one another.

Right, some of the younger kids playing hoops at the Queen's and King's of the Court basketball league.



Charlestown basketball league is seeing success

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

Queen's and King's of the Court, a free 3v3 basketball league that began last year, is amidst its second season and is providing fun and competition for kids throughout the neighborhood.

Last year, Victoria Dostie and a few other residents got together and decided to put the league together to give the kids at the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Development in Charlestown something to do.

"In our area — where we are at in Charlestown — they closed down the local pool, there's not many things for the kids to do for free, and our development is actu-

ally being torn down and redeveloped as we speak," said Dostie.

"So, there's really limited things for the kids to do, and the only thing that we really do have is a basketball court, and that's basically where all the kids meet up, and everybody just hangs out," she added.

Initially, Dostie wanted to create the league a few years ago, but COVID struck. However, after the loss of the pool and the redevelopment of the area, she got some other residents and the kids together, and within a month, Queen's and King's of the Court was born.

After a successful inaugural

year in 2022 with over 60 kids participating, the league has started once again.

Games are played on Sundays at the Charlestown BHA Development on Bunker Hill Street at the basketball court from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the league is slated to run through August 20.

Kids age nine and up are able to play in the games. Moreover, there are three players per team and a substitute for the times when someone cannot make it, and the games are in a 3v3 half-court format up to 21 points.

Records are then kept leading

(BASKETBALL Pg. 11)

Developer granted project extension

By Adam Swift

The developers of the Charlestown Navy Yard building that once housed its central power plant received a six month extension from the Boston Planning & Development Agency's Board of Trustees last week.

Powerhouse CNY is proposing a 97,000 square foot building with approximately 84,000 square feet of rentable lab and research and development space, 1,700 square feet of rentable cafe space, and 39 underground parking spaces.

"We are asking board approval to extend the designation of Powerhouse CNY for the development and long-term lease of Building 108 at the Charlestown Navy Yard," said BPDA project manager Emma Bird.

er Emma Bird.

Following board approval in late 2020 for a construction contract, the S&R Corporation substantially completed the demolition of the 32,000 square foot existing building and the abatement of the site this spring, according to Bird.

"The BPDA originally issued an RFP for the redevelopment of Building 108 in November of 2019, and subsequently, the BPDA rejected both proposals it received and reissued the RFP in September of 2022," said Bird. "The proposal submitted by Powerhouse CNY, LLC was determined to be the most highly advantageous for its ability to execute the project presented and for its design and

(BPDA, Pg. 2)

BPDA holds second neighborhood meeting

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On Wednesday, July 12, the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) held the second of two neighborhood needs-themed public meetings, this time to make recommendations for the remaining topics that are part of PLAN: Charlestown's Neighborhood Needs Analysis.

During this meeting, the BPDA revealed recommendations for seven neighborhood topics: Housing, Open Space, Climate Resilience, Retail, Food Security, Arts and Culture, and Mobility.

For each of the seven aforementioned topics, BPDA staff detailed the city agencies that work on the topic, relevant plans that have

guided the BPDA's recommendations, and in some cases, ongoing work.

The first topic on the docket was housing, in which the BPDA made four recommendations for the neighborhood. The first of which is to focus housing unit growth in the historically industrial areas which have low density.

As for the second recommendation Patricia Cafferky, a Senior Planner with the BPDA, said it is to "Update the zoning code to allow housing wherever feasible, to densities that will encourage the creation of affordable housing, especially new housing which would be required to follow the city's Inclu-

(MEETING Pg. 3)

Boston Planning & Development Agency Board approves IDP changes

By Adam Swift

Mayor Michelle Wu's proposal to increase affordable housing units in new construction in the city was approved by the Boston Planning & Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors at its monthly meeting last week.

The change to the city's inclusionary zoning policy would see the effective rate of affordable units in new developments increase from 13 to 20 percent, and codify the changes in the city's zoning ordinances. The inclusionary zoning amendment okayed by the board would require 17 percent of units in developments of seven or more units to be affordable, with an additional 3 percent set aside for Section 8 vouchers.

The proposal will next go to the City Council before heading to the

Boston Zoning Commission for possible approval.

The proposal passed the board by a 4-0 vote, but several members did raise concerns about how the change could impact market rate residential development in the city.

Inclusionary development programs require market rate developments to create affordable units on or off site, or in some cases require developers to pay into a fund that would be set aside for the development of affordable units.

"Boston's Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) was created by executive order during the Menino administration," said BPDA Planning Director Aimee Chambers. "It has been updated over time, most recently in 2015, when the current guidelines were established."

In 2021, a home-rule petition

was passed which would allow the IDP to be incorporated into the city's zoning ordinances. That petition requires that the zoning text be approved and reviewed by the city council before going to the zoning commission.

In 2022, a feasibility study was initiated by RKG Associates and the mayor's office of housing to study potential changes to the city's inclusionary zoning policy, Chambers said.

"The financial model enabled the city to test prototypical developments to understand the financial implications of changing the existing IDP ordinance," said Chambers.

The current IDP policy applies to new developments of 10 or more units which require zoning relief. While the current policy allows for as low as 13 percent

of new units to be set aside as affordable, Chambers noted that developers are generally showing a greater commitment to affordability.

"On average, the current process is generating a set aside of 17 percent," Chambers said. "Because of the IDP, developers have created over 4,000 on-site and off-site income-restricted units, and 688 units are currently in construction."

Developers have also made over \$200 million in IDP contributions, she said.

Under the new policy, developments would not need zoning relief to trigger the income-restricted units, it would be based purely on the number of units. In addition, the income-restricted unit percentage could be satisfied either by the number of affordable units, or

total square footage of the development. Chambers said this could potentially create larger affordable units for families.

"I recognize that there are many strong views on what is that right percentage to both address the significant housing need that we have, particularly with affordability in the city, and still making Boston attractive for developers to want to invest in it and make sure it is financially feasible," said BPDA Board Chair Priscilla Rojas.

Boston Chief of Housing Sheila Dillon said that while the city's goal is to increase the amount of affordable housing and mixed-income development in the city, it does not want to do it in a way that would impede market rate development. She said the consultant, RKG Associates, spent

BPDA (from pg. 1)

development plan, its diversity and inclusion plan, and its financial offer."

In February of 2021, the BPDA board approved the tentative designation of Powerhouse CNY for the redevelopment of Building 108, and then approved a 12-month extension of the developers tentative designation in July of 2022.

Since being granted tentative

designation, Bird said the developer has made significant progress, including submitting a project notification form through the city's Article 80 process, pursuing financing, and beginning community outreach.

During the requested six-month extension until Jan. 31, 2024, the development team plans to finalize negotiations of the long-term ground lease, continue to pursue

commitments from equity investors for construction and permitting financing and continue the Article 80 community process.

"Pending completion of due diligence by the developer and the successful negotiation of a lease agreement and evidence of financing commitment, BPDA staff will return to the board to request final designation," said Bird.

City opens applications for Boston School Committee

Mayor Michelle Wu opened the application to fill the vacancy on the Boston School Committee for the remainder of the term ending on January 1, 2024 that was created by the resignation of Lorena Lopera. To serve as a member for the next full four-year term, individuals will have to reapply later this year. The Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, composed of families, educators, school leaders and representatives of the business and higher education communities, will receive and evaluate the applications and share recommendations with the Mayor. The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools (BPS).

Applications to fill the upcoming vacancy are now due Monday, July 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Interviews for selected candidates will be held on the week of August 7, 2023, between 4:30-6:00 pm.

The School Committee is responsible for:

- Defining the vision, mission,

and goals of the Boston Public Schools;

- Establishing and monitoring the annual operating budget;
- Hiring, managing, and evaluating the Superintendent; and
- Setting and reviewing district policies and practices to support student achievement.

The School Committee meets approximately twice per month during the school year to adopt, review and modify policies and practices that support teaching, learning and improved student achievement. With the exception of executive sessions, Committee meetings are open to the public, feature public comment periods and are broadcast on Boston City TV.

Please direct all questions and submit completed applications to scnominatingpanel@boston.gov or mail/deliver to Room 612 of Boston City Hall. You can learn more about the Boston School Committee online.



Virtual Public Meeting

PLAN: Charlestown

August 3, 2023

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/PLANctownDraftRelease

Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864

Meeting ID: 161 035 6543



Project Description:

Please join the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for a virtual community meeting at 6pm on August 3rd, to discuss PLAN: Charlestown's newly released Draft Plan. PLAN: Charlestown is the neighborhood's ongoing comprehensive planning initiative, considering neighborhood needs, new zoning, and public realm improvements. This meeting will be spent giving an overview of the draft Plan document, the Plan's recommendations, and the final draft 'scenario' for the neighborhood's future. This meeting kicks off the 6-week comment period for the draft plan, at the end of which the BPDA will make revisions based on community feedback. We hope you will come to share your thoughts and ask questions!

mail to: **Jason Ruggiero**

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MEETING *(from pg. 1)*

sionary Development — IDP policy — and result in more affordable housing units.”

Other suggestions included prioritizing the creation of family-sized units with three or more bedrooms and advocating for affordable homeownership opportunities for households below median-income levels.

It should be noted that according to Cafferky, these recommendations were guided in part by the Housing a Changing City plan which was updated in 2018.

Moreover, in terms of ongoing work, there are plans to update the Inclusionary Development Program (IDP) this year.

The next topic up was Open Space, with recommendations guided in part by the Open Space Plan 2023-2029 and the Urban Forest Plan. The BPDA has eight suggestions for this topic, including adding street trees to the neighborhood and installing two multi-use soccer/lacrosse fields by the year 2050, among many other recommendations.

“Charlestown, in general, has a pretty low acre of park to residents ratio at only 2.5 currently,” said Cafferky.

“A big priority of this plan is adding acreage of open space — not necessarily parks — but open space, even if it’s on private land, to the neighborhood that residents will have access to,” she added.

Regarding climate resiliency, the BPDA supplemented its recommendations with several guide-

lines, including the Coastal Flood Resilience Design and Climate Resilient Infrastructure Guidelines.

Other helpful plans were also mentioned, such as the Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston, Urban Forest Plan, and two Coastal Resilience plans from Climate Ready Boston.

With these relevant plans and guidelines in mind, the BPDA recommends continuing to implement the heat and coastal resilience projects that Climate Ready Boston is undertaking and adding more green infrastructure features.

Continuing to work with partners in the state, federal and private sectors to implement things like climate mitigation measures that serve the public good was also suggested.

Topic number four went into depth about retail in Charlestown. Cafferky explained that there are two challenges concerning retail in the neighborhood that residents raised: the loss of retail space due to conversion to residential and vacant storefronts.

Through its recommendations, the BPDA is setting out to quell the former challenge; as Cafferky mentioned, the latter challenge is harder to target directly.

Currently, ground-floor residential uses are allowed by right in the Local Convenience and Neighborhood Shopping subdistricts — where most retail in the neighborhood is located.

This means if someone has a

building with ground floor retail and wants to convert that space to a housing unit, they can, and the BPDA cannot recommend denial.

“So what we’re recommending as part of PLAN: Charlestown is to make residential on the ground floor in these two districts conditional. Which means that we actually do get to have a say in if this goes forward,” said Cafferky.

With this zoning change, the BPDA is also proposing to amend the boundaries of the subdistricts to remove fully residential blocks.

Other recommendations include making needed retail uses such as gyms or laundromats less restricted in the aforementioned subdistricts, encouraging developers to have retail facilities, facilitating a walkable retail environment, and encouraging developers to include off-site retail.

Moving toward food security, the BPDA looked at the number of food establishments in the neighborhood and analyzed data regarding food stamps/SNAP benefits and more.

The BPDA then landed on three recommendations: adding an affordable grocery store in the area, advocating for developments to have community garden plots on the ground floor or rooftop, and supporting local food pantries and Harvest on Vine.

As for the penultimate topic — Arts and Culture — the Boston Creates Plan supplemented the BPDA’s recommendations, and there is also an expected Making

Space for Art: Securing Cultural Infrastructure Study later this year.

The recommendations, of which there were multiple, included maintaining the existing

cultural assets and artist presence in the neighborhood, implementing the incoming recommendations from the Making Space for Art study, identifying gaps in affordable workspaces for creative uses, and much more.

The final topic of the meeting was mobility, in which Lydia Hausle, a Senior Transportation Planner with the BPDA, went over data that touched on several transportation aspects.

The data touched on subjects such as crash history, travel trends, parking, and the conditions for driving, pedestrian, transit, and biking throughout Charlestown. In addition, Hausle also analyzed mobility in context, giving meeting attendees an idea of how it is different in each part of the neighborhood.

Some of the recommendations for mobility include studying and developing plans for key neighborhood corridors such as Main and Medford Streets, establishing a neighborhood bike network, expanding public carshare, strengthening multimodal connections, and much more.

Following the presentation of all seven topics, Cafferky reviewed one more change the BPDA would like to make related to zoning.

The change is to a small zoning district within the neighborhood

— City Square — which was added in 1995 due to the Big Dig. The City Square zoning is 100% the same as Charlestown’s dimensional zoning and 80% the same in terms of allowed land uses.

“We’re proposing as part of PLAN: Charlestown that we take City Square and we put it in with the rest of the Charlestown District to make sure these districts are treated the same in the entirety of Charlestown,” said Cafferky.

It should be noted that all of the aforementioned details of each topic merely scratched the surface of last Wednesday’s presentation. If you want to learn more about it, the meeting’s slideshow and recording can be found at <https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/plan-charlestown>.

As for the next steps, the draft PLAN: Charlestown document is slated to be released at the end of the month, with a comment period to follow. Further, a public meeting about the draft is tentatively scheduled for August 3 at 6:00 p.m., and the final plan is tentatively slated to come out in September.

For any and all information regarding last Wednesday’s meeting or PLAN: Charlestown in general, you can visit the link mentioned above.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

MCGINLEY EARNS DEAN’S LIST HONORS

Charles McGinley of Charlestown is majoring in Business Creative Enterprises and is a member of Emerson College’s Class of 2024.

The requirement to make Dean’s List at Emerson College is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher for that semester.

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city’s Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has approximate-

ly 4,161 undergraduates and 554 graduate students from across the United States and nearly 70 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs at Emerson Los Angeles, located in Hollywood, and at its 14th-century castle, in the Netherlands. Additionally, there are opportunities to study in Washington, DC, London, China, and the Czech Republic, Spain, Austria, Greece, France, Ireland, Mexico, Cuba, England, and South Africa. The College has an active network of 51,000+ alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts.

STUDENT NAMED TO DEAN’S LIST

Timothy McGinley of Charlestown was named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2023 semester at Quinnipiac University.

To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, institution located 90

minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 9,000 students in 110 degree programs through its Schools of Business, Communications, Education, Computing and Engineering, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine, Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences. Quinnipiac is recognized by U.S. News & World Report and Princeton Review’s “The Best 388 Colleges.” The university is in the midst of program expansion and renewal for both traditional and adult learners, attraction of diverse communities, development of innovative corporate partnerships and construction of an ambitious set of capital projects.

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EDITORIAL

YES, OUR DEMOCRACY IS ON THE EDGE

The national political scene is probably the last thing that any of us want to be thinking about in the middle of July, but some recent events are making it clear that the attack on the Capitol on January 6 was just the opening round of what promises to be an unprecedented assault on our democracy and Constitution not seen since the Confederates fired on Ft. Sumter in 1861.

For example, former vice-president Mike Pence has been greeted with a chorus of boos at recent gatherings of conservative groups, particularly when he told the crowd that he lacked the authority to overturn the Electoral College results of the 2020 Presidential election.

Similarly, former Arkansas governor Asa Hutchinson, who has been a vocal critic of former President Trump for the past few years, was booed repeatedly at a recent convention of young conservatives.

What these and other incidents demonstrate is that there is a solid percentage of our fellow Americans who do not believe in the basic principles of our democracy and who will use any means necessary to achieve their goals.

These folks claim to be "patriotic Americans," but being a patriotic American does not merely mean waving the flag -- it means respecting our Constitution and our laws -- and it is obvious to anyone paying attention that many of these folks are gearing up for what may be a violent uprising in 2024 that will strain our nation's democracy to a degree not seen since 1861.

HERE'S SOME CONSOLATION FOR SOX FANS

With the Major League Baseball season resuming after the All-Star break, the Red Sox appear destined to relegation to the realm of mediocrity. Sure, they're above .500, but our Sox don't appear to have either the pitching or the hitting to make a run to the playoffs.

However, as we looked briefly at the standings on Monday, there was one ray of brightness -- the Yankees were in last place in the American League East with us!

There is a term for what we were feeling -- *schadenfreude* -- the concept that one derives happiness only from the misfortunes of others.

To be sure, we're disappointed that the Sox once again will be on the outside looking in.

But if the Yankees also are out of the playoff picture -- well, that's a cause for joy in and of itself.

MORE BIZARRO COMMENTS BY RFK JR.

Well, as if right on cue, two days after our editorial last week ("RFK Jr. is a disgrace to his family name") about the delusional "campaign" for President by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., he made this disturbing comment at a luncheon in New York City, which was reported by the New York Post:

"There is an argument that it (COVID 19) is ethnically targeted. COVID-19 attacks certain races disproportionately. COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese."

As the Anti-Defamation League and others have pointed out, Kennedy's comments are not merely ludicrous, but they encourage those who might believe in his bonkers conspiracy theories to engage in dangerous racist and anti-semitic behavior.

It is obvious that Kennedy is on an ego trip -- his "campaign" for president is an old-man's version (he's 69) of a mid-life crisis. Hopefully, he'll continue to make even more nutty pronouncements so that soon enough he'll go back to where he came from and we won't have to put up with him.

DIDOMENICO SPEAKS WITH CIVIC ACTION PROJECT FELLOWS

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico spoke with graduate students participating in the Civic Action Project (CAP) Fellowship at the State House. DiDomenico shared his journey of getting involved in politics and becoming a City Councilor in his hometown and State Senator for his district. The Senator also discussed his legislative priorities, how he advocates for the issues that are important to him and his district, and how critical it is to be engaged in state government.

"One of the best parts of this job is talking with young people who are passionate about making positive changes in our world and are eager to learn," said State Senator Sal DiDomenico. "I know we are facing a wide range of challenges, so it is inspiring to see so many students dedicated to working on addressing these issues and making our communities and country a better place. I want to thank the Civic Action Project team for inviting me and for supporting so many young people interested in policy-making. My office has also benefited from this program by having CAP alum, Ayla Thornton, as our amazing Legislative Director."



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking with CAP fellows.

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THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

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EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

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

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Senator Sal DiDomenico in the Senate Chamber with Eliel Fox and Danny Fox.

DIDOMENICO HOSTS BRAZILIAN ELECTED OFFICIAL

Last week, Senator Sal DiDomenico hosted his friend Sam Amado and Sao Paulo, Brazil City Councilor Eliel Fox, along with his wife, Danny, for a State House tour. DiDomenico showed them his office, the Senate Chamber, and officially welcomed them during a Senate Session. The Senator and Fox discussed a wide range of topics including their work, backgrounds, family history, and so much more.

Senator DiDomenico said, "It was a pleasure to host Eliel and Danny, and it was great learning about the many similarities and differences between our jobs and our country's governments. I have many constituents who are from Brazil or have family there, so it was fascinating to learn even more about this beautiful country and the daily life of an elected official working there. I want to thank my friend Sam for introducing us and for his support and friendship throughout the years."



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaking with Eliel Fox and Sam Amado on the Senate Balcony.

DIDOMENICO ADVOCATES FOR HIS UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS LEGISLATION

Senator Sal DiDomenico testified at an Education Committee Hearing this week in support of his Universal School Meals bill, S261 An Act relative to universal school meals. Senator DiDomenico has spent years advocating for this commonsense legislation as Vice Chair of the Education Committee and is using his new role as Co-Chair of the Food System Caucus to advance this priority. The Caucus recently endorsed several pieces of legislation, including Senator DiDomenico's Universal School Meals bill. DiDomenico will continue his work to get his

proposal passed through the legislature and signed by the Governor. Senator Sal DiDomenico, Vice Chair of the Education Committee and Co-Chair of the Food System Caucus, remarked to the Committee, "We don't means test anything else in our schools, textbooks, visits to nurses, pens, pencils, or any kind of supplies. The most important thing we can do, feeding kids, we charge for that. It is past time we pass my universal school meals legislation and guarantee that no student goes hungry in a Massachusetts school ever again."

This legislation, sponsored by

Senator Sal DiDomenico and Representative Andy Vargas, would provide free breakfast and lunch to every child in a Massachusetts K-12 school. The Food System Caucus is comprised of a bipartisan group of 158 legislators from every corner of the Commonwealth that works to ensure that our food producers and consumers have a seat at the table and advance legislation that will give them the support they need and deserve. This group will now be advocating in support of their handful of endorsed bills, including Universal School Meals.



Senator DiDomenico testifies at the Education Committee Hearing.

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NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE ALLIANCE INC HOLDS FUNDRAISING EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Greg Nolan with Pete Golden.

The Neighborhood Voice Alliance Inc is a group of Charlestown residents who are opposed to the renovation of The Helm On Third to become housing for recently homeless people. They held a fundraiser event at Warren Tavern to hire an attorney to help in their initiative named Helm No.



Dean Anruzzio, Julie Salamone and Wayne Olier.



Bob O'Leary with Diane and Laura Gallagher.



Renee Yura selling some raffle tickets.



Warren Tavern was packed with supporters.



Warren Tavern (above and below) was packed with supporters.



NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE ALLIANCE INC HOLDS FUNDRAISING EVENT

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Tom and Moree Meehan with Desmond Pieri.



Marcela and Alicja Trochan with Elaine Scadding.



Gerry Angoff with Rosemary Macero.



Connie Gutierrez and Carol Epstein.



Ann and Trish Gildea with Gina Koprowski and Ellen Powers.



Diane O'Leary with Claire Afdhal.



Neighborhood Voice Alliance Inc organizers: Rosemary Macero, Chris and Renee Yura, Helene Fakhery, and Nancy Mara-Aldridge.



A HOT NUTRITIOUS MEAL

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Recent rainfall lifts MA out of drought

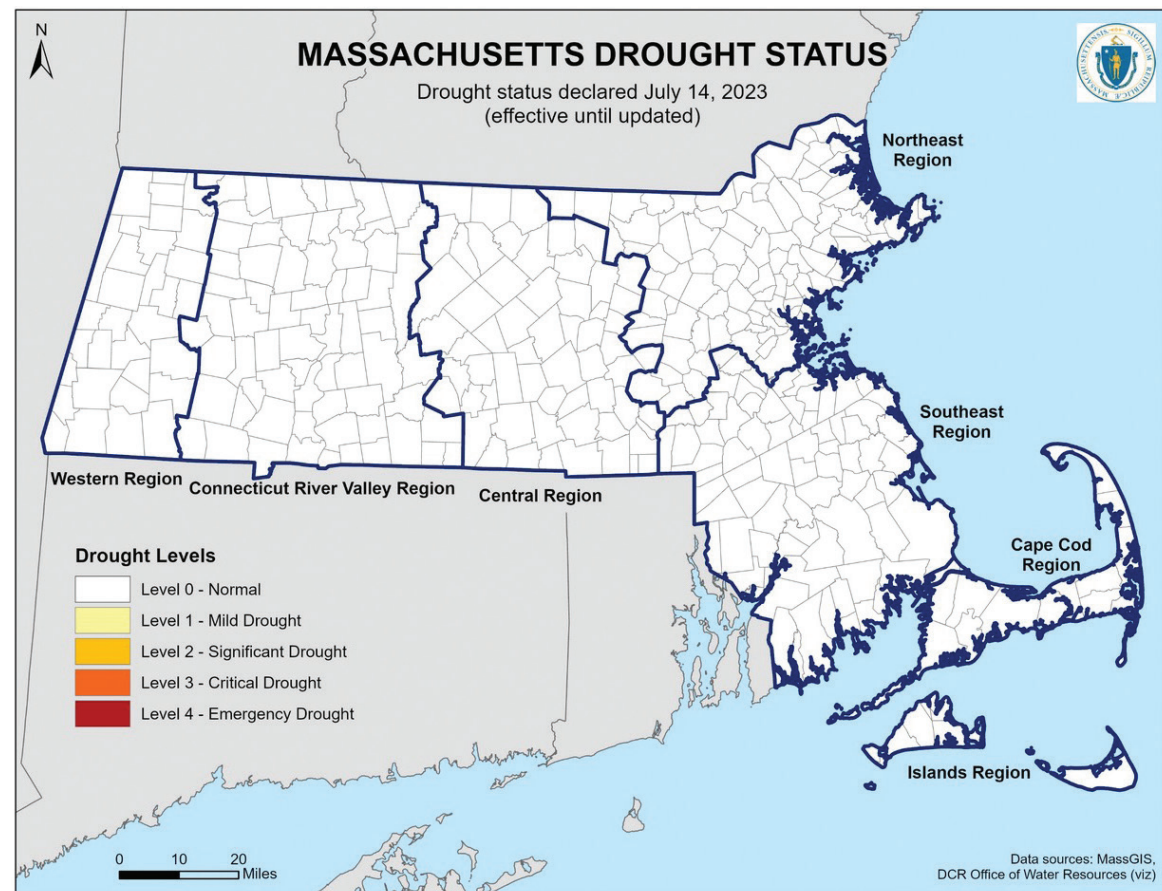
Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared drought conditions return to normal following above-normal rainfall for the month of June. All seven regions are at a Level 0-Normal Conditions, including the Western and Cape Cod Regions, which were previously declared at a Level-1 Mild Drought. The declarations are the result of a recommendation issued from a recent meeting of the Drought Management Task Force, comprised of state and federal officials and other entities.

“After a week of devastating floods in Western Massachusetts, it should not come as a surprise that the drought has lifted,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “In recent months, we’ve seen droughts, flooding, and wildfire smoke across our region. The climate crisis is very much here. The Healey-Driscoll Administration is focused on addressing these

impacts on all fronts – from disaster response to water conservation efforts, to a swift transition to clean energy. We continue to monitor water levels closely as weather becomes more extreme.”

The month of June and the beginning of July have brought above-normal rainfall and near to below-normal temperatures across the state. State officials expect above-average precipitation and near to slightly above-average temperatures for the rest of July. Normal Conditions, as outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, recommends that overall water efficiency practices and preparedness actions such as water conservation and emergency planning efforts continue at the local level and that state and local agencies work to review, assess, and improve responses and actions implemented during the drought.

With the declaration of Normal Conditions, the Drought Man-



agement Task Force will not meet again until a region in the state is experiencing drought conditions. However, state agencies will con-

tinue to monitor and assess conditions across Massachusetts. For further information on water conservation and what residents and

communities can do, please visit EEA's Drought page and water conservation page.

Call for walkers: Register for the 35th Annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Details:

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

- 5K walk (from Dana-Farber

Cancer Institute's Longwood Medical Campus)

- 10K walk (from Newton)
- Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley)
- Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton)

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients – Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes – displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration.

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric.

Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

If walkers wish to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities. Participants can also join the event virtually by “walking their way” from wherever they are most comfortable—in their neighborhood, on a favorite hiking trail, or on a treadmill at home. Virtual programming and supporting materials will be available.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to pre-

vent, treat, and defy cancer.

The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022. Funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team! Take advantage of this unique opportunity and lead a group of your family, friends, or colleagues to the finish line. The Jimmy Fund can help you start a team, grow your fundraising, and defy cancer, together.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a

walker, visit www.JimmyFund-Walk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

The Jimmy Fund, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2023, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

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New DPH report reveals rates of severe maternal morbidity

The prevalence of severe maternal morbidity nearly doubled in Massachusetts from 2011 to 2020, with Black non-Hispanic birthing people consistently experiencing the highest rates of labor and delivery complications among all races and ethnicities, according to a first-of-its-kind report by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).

Severe maternal morbidity (SMM) involves unexpected complications of labor and delivery that result in significant consequences to the birthing person's health. Such complications include life-threatening conditions (such as heart attacks, acute kidney failure, eclampsia, and sepsis), as well as situations that require the need for life-saving procedures (such as the removal of the uterus) to manage serious conditions.

"Massachusetts has the best health care system in the country, but this report shows that there is much more work that we need to do to address racial and gender inequities in health care. It is essential that everyone has access to comprehensive, high-quality and inclusive maternal health care,"

said Governor Maura Healey. "We can and must do better for mothers, for kids and for families – and our administration is committed to doing just that."

"We can't address what we're not measuring, and this report shines a painful light on what we've known to be true for a while – women of color are not receiving the high-quality maternal health care that they need and deserve," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We are working across our administration and with partners in government and health care to reduce racial disparities in health care."

The new report retrospectively examined 678,382 deliveries, including both live births and fetal deaths, among 483,699 Massachusetts residents from 2011 to 2020. During this 10-year period, Black non-Hispanic birthing people consistently demonstrated the highest SMM rates, with inequities increasing an average of 10.1 percent each year. In 2011, the gap between SMM rates for Black non-Hispanic and white non-Hispanic birthing people was two-fold. By 2020, the SMM rate

for Black non-Hispanic birthing people was 2.5 times higher than that of white non-Hispanic birthing people, indicating a 25 percent increase in the gap over that time.

The report found that rates of SMM increased significantly for all birthing people, nearly doubling from 52.3 per 10,000 deliveries in 2011 to 100.4 per 10,000 deliveries in 2020, with an average annual increase of 8.9 percent. SMM rates increased by 7.8 percent per year on average for white non-Hispanic, 8.2 percent for Hispanic, and 10.5 percent for Asian/Pacific Islander non-Hispanic birthing people.

The report also revealed significant inequities experienced by birthing people with disabilities – particularly for those with intellectual, vision, and mobility-related disabilities. For every 10,000 deliveries, there were 131.6 deliveries with SMM among people with intellectual disabilities; 108.4 among people with a vision disability; and 94.6 among people with a mobility disability, rates that were significantly higher than those for people without such disabilities.

"When we look at maternal health outcomes through a lens of race and ethnicity, we see a different picture of our health care system," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh. "Birthing people, particularly women of color, face devastating levels of risk. We have a lot of work to do to improve outcomes, and this report is a call to action that tells us where we need to focus our efforts to address the root causes of maternal health complications and close the racial gap."

"This report provides a comprehensive and sobering look at the worsening problem of inequities in severe maternal morbidity," said Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD. "DPH will continue to share these data transparently as we work to urgently address the structural and systemic barriers in our health care and public health infrastructure that contribute to these troubling outcomes."

"The fact that these rates and the gaps have continued to worsen over time indicates that Black non-Hispanic birthing people have not benefited from improved medical knowledge and care," said Hafsatou Diop, MD, MPH, Director of the Division of Maternal and Child Health Research and Analysis at DPH. "It has been long recognized that racism – not race – is the risk factor, as it leads to discriminatory beliefs and behaviors toward Black non-Hispanic birthing people."

Identifying innovative ways to address racial inequities in SMM is a priority for DPH. In 2022, the department established a multi-disciplinary Maternal Health Task Force to create and implement a maternal health strategic plan. DPH also is addressing critical gaps in direct maternal and child clinical care using CDC's Levels of Care Assessment Tool to establish the Levels of Maternal Care in MA. The goal is for pregnant people at high risk to receive care in facilities that are prepared to provide the required level of specialized care, thereby reducing maternal morbidity and mortality in the state.

In addition, DPH is implement-

ing targeted interventions for medically underserved communities, with the goal of improving outcomes for those most impacted by SMM. This includes remote blood pressure (BP) monitoring programs, which are currently being piloted at Baystate Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Boston Medical Center to improve awareness of obstetric warning signs for patients with hypertensive disorders, including preeclampsia/eclampsia. Hypertensive disorders are a leading cause of severe maternal morbidity and postpartum readmission. DPH is also working with MassHealth to explore coverage options for remote BP monitoring programs.

Overall, the data in the report underscore the need for enhanced monitoring and support for all birthing people, with specific attention directed toward those groups at greater risk. In addition, the report highlights the importance of collecting and using data to identify and understand inequities and to inform approaches to address serious public health problems.

The report is the state's first to specifically focus on maternal and child health using DPH's Public Health Data Warehouse, which was created by legislative statute in 2017.

"To improve peripartum health outcomes," the report concludes, "state policy efforts must continue to target structural racism and ableism, as well as other socioeconomic and community drivers of adverse maternal outcomes, including access to and quality of primary and prenatal care."

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5	2 BR	813	\$2,004	60% AMI	1	-
3	2 BR	810	\$2,160	80% AMI	-	-
*3	3 BR	875	30% of HH Income	30% AMI	-	-
1	3 BR	1057	30% of HH Income	50% AMI	-	1
4	3 BR	934	\$2,315	60% AMI	-	-
2	3 BR	869	\$2,670	80% AMI	-	-
*1	4 BR	1,050	30% of HH Income	30% AMI	-	-
2	4 BR	1,085	30% of HH Income	50% AMI	-	-
2	4 BR	1,174	\$2,583	60% AMI	-	-

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1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	\$31,150	\$51,950	\$62,340	\$82,950
2	N/A	N/A	\$57,300	\$74,057	2	\$35,600	\$59,400	\$71,280	\$94,800
3	N/A	N/A	\$65,888	\$91,542	3	\$40,050	\$66,800	\$80,160	\$106,650
4	N/A	N/A	\$73,200	N/A	4	\$44,500	\$74,200	\$89,040	\$118,450
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Weekdays	6/12/23 to 7/21/23	1:00pm to 4:00pm	233 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119
Thursday	6/22/23	6:00pm to 8:00pm	215 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119
Saturday	6/24/23	10:00am to 2:00pm	233 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119
Tuesday	6/27/23	6:00pm to 8:00pm	233 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119
Thursday	6/15/23	6:00pm to 8:00pm	484 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116

To request an online application or to have one sent by email visit <https://bit.ly/DudleyCrossingAppRequest>

We will be holding informational meetings on **June 27, 2023 at 6:00pm** at **Thomas I. Atkins 215 Blue Hill Avenue, Roxbury, MA 02119** . Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83020707335?pwd=aDBSY0U5RDJoeVcvMXBpaXdKSTFOdz09>

We will be holding informational meetings on **June 15, 2023 at 6:00pm** at **Castle Square 484 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116**. Join virtually, too, through the following link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82670889506?pwd=dKlvN1hQT3N3REIHym5YdFVlVtB0U0T09>

DEADLINE: Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than **Sunday July 23, 2023**
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Date: July 07, 2023
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7/20/23
CT

BASKETBALL (from pg. 1)

up to a championship where the kids can win some awesome prizes. Last year, the winners received sneakers, and all the kids involved received participant trophies.

Dostie said she has talked with someone about potentially getting sneakers for the winners again and plans to give out trophies again this year too.

Another amazing aspect of the league is that there are also things for the kids who might not be old enough to play in the games. The league allows community members to set up tables with educational, physical, or craft activities for the younger kids.

The tables not only give some of the younger kids in the area something to do, but they can also offer educational and job opportunities for the older kids.

"Last year, I had somebody come out, and she does construction ... The younger kids can actually play with the tools and get a feel of what the tools were and give opportunities for the older generation to be able to sign up and get involved with and get jobs or training opportunities," said Dostie.

If all of this was not enough, the league even feeds the kids every Sunday while they are playing — for free.

Remarkably, everything that has been put together through this league has been from the pockets of those who have created the league or from donations from the community, and the league is actually in the process of becoming a non-profit.

Although Dostie said she did not expect the league to turn out as great as it did last year, she described it as amazing.

"To see the amount of kids that come, that reach out to us and that it help keeps them motivated to do better, you know, it's an amazing feeling," said Dostie.

"I am a single mother of three daughters, so for me to start it and be able to give my kids as well as other people's kids somewhere to

go that's safe, where there's adults that they can reach out to," she added.

"It's great to see like that we have something that our youth are able to be themselves at as well as being comfortable and safe and not having to worry about anything."

Regarding the future of the league, Dostie sees it going far — she hopes the league gets to a point where the kids can travel to play.

As this year's rendition of the Queen's and King's of the Court basketball league continues, Dostie made it clear everyone is welcome, whether that be kids looking to play or someone looking to volunteer.

Dostie did note that the league is always looking for referees and DJs to play music during the games. "Anybody can come volunteer — anybody can come play," she said.

"I highly suggest anybody that wants to [play or volunteer], to definitely come stop by — they don't even have to send me an email or anything — just come by and come talk to us, and we'll even place you in right then and there if they want," said Dostie.

"We want everybody to know like this is an open thing for the community. We want everybody in the community to be able to come and join and help. That's what we want; that was our purpose, you know to give not just the kids but the whole community as well something to look forward to," she added.

If you are looking to learn more about the league, make a donation, volunteer, or more, you can email crownbballtournament22@yahoo.com or visit its Facebook page at https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084345114632&locale=hi_IN.

"We're hoping that the people that do come, that they have a fun time and they continue to come back with us because we want this to continue for as long as we can," said Dostie.



Queen's and King's of the Court banner is erected.



One of the community tables you can find at the league on Sundays.

NEWS BRIEFS**ADOPT A POLE CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**

North Suffolk Community Services in collaboration with All Roads Lead to Charlestown Chapters Recovery Center, Think of Michael, and Gavin Foundation will be hosting a kickoff event on August 17 at noon for our Adopt a Pole Campaign. This event targets the stigma associated with substance use disorder and brings education and awareness to communities regarding overdose. We will be hanging a minimum of 100 purple ribbons in the following communities: Charlestown, Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Roxbury, South Boston, and Winthrop. Bows can be personalized in advance. Please join us and show your support by hanging a ribbon in memory of a loved one, friend or constituent.

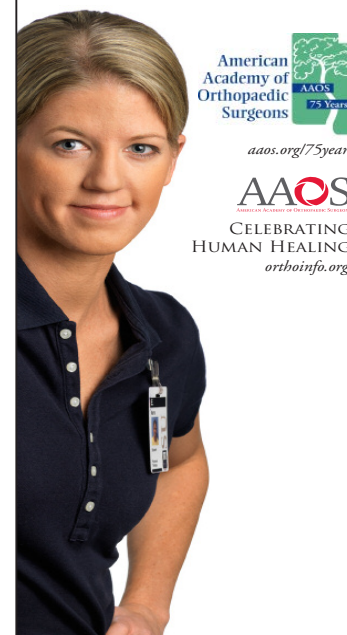
This event will take place at 983 Bennington Street in East Boston on August 17 from 12-1pm. The bows will remain up for Overdose Awareness Day on 8/31 and the month of September (Recovery Month).

A SHORT STORY ABOUT A MOTORCYCLE. AND A SUDDEN TURN.

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Elisabeth's experience caused her to redirect her own career aspirations. Inspired by the medical professionals who helped her reclaim her active lifestyle, she changed her major to study physical therapy—a profession where her own experience could help other patients prevail through difficult recoveries.

We tell Elisabeth Marra's story here to illustrate two of the most profound messages we know. Don't give up, and remember to give back. If reading it inspires just one more person to achieve something special, then its telling here has been well worth while.

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FRESH AND LOCAL

Salads for supper

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

We enjoy salads for supper all year round but much more often when the summer heat makes hot meals less desirable. That doesn't mean we skimp on protein or survive on bowls of greens. Many of our favorite salads have added protein, and some contain a few herbs instead of greens.

Remember Chef's Salads?

Once, many restaurant menus had an item called a "Chef's Salad." The standard had lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, avocados, hard-boiled eggs, cheese, and meat. These ingredients will

make a good salad. However, we use these as categories and call it a "Supper Salad." Often we make one to use up the bits and pieces in our refrigerator.

We also use the best of each vegetable available from the summer farmers' markets instead of the tasteless tomatoes, thick-skinned cucumbers, and high-fat meat and cheese that were once used. That change alone improves our meals' appearance, flavor, and nutritional value.

Choose a more flavorful cheese like feta, parmesan, or blue cheese, and use less per portion. Replace the meat with a combination of a legume or bean and grain, and you



Once upon a time, this would have been called a "Chef's Salad." We call it a "Supper Salad" and make one often to use up the bits and pieces in our refrigerator.

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Prep Your Pantry for Supper Salads

We keep a few favorite items on hand to enhance salads. Think about what you love in salads and keep those items ready. Today we can pick up many of these items in a supermarket. We stock cans and packets of chickpeas, beans, lentils, mixed grains, flavored tuna, and olives.

We add a big flavor hit to our salads with capers, pickled onions, pickled ginger, and charcuterie, like cured chorizo. For texture and crunch, we might top a salad with

fried shallots, croutons, nuts, or seeds.

For dressings, we keep a selection of oils and vinegar on hand. Our choice of vinegar may be decided by the cultural background of a particular salad or ingredient. We'll use sherry vinegar for a salad inspired by gazpacho and rice vinegar for a Vietnamese Bun Thit Nuong.

Favorite Salads

That Vietnamese Bun Thit Nuong is one of our favorite salads. It combines cold rice vermicelli, grated carrots, napa cabbage, and bean sprouts, topped with

grilled meat, fresh Thai basil, and mint. It's dressed with an oil-free nuoc cham sauce.

From Thailand, we enjoy a larb salad. This is a spicy hand-chopped meat salad seasoned with fish sauce, chili flakes, and lime juice. Traditionally it is made with pork and served with sticky rice, but we love a chicken version served with lettuce cups.

Ed loves a Salad Niçoise especially when it's made with fresh seared tuna. Penny prefers to have hers with a good tuna in olive oil. One of the great things about salads is that they are easy to adapt to food preferences.

Our version of Middle Eastern tabouli has chickpeas added. With the bulgar wheat included in the basic recipe, this makes for a complete protein. You can use a classic recipe like French grated carrot salad as a base and begin to add ingredients that will make it a meal.

Prepare Portions

One final thought on salads is to think about what can be made ahead and portioned out ready to eat. So many times, one or more members of a household needs a meal at a different time. A salad that is prepped but not dressed can be a perfect answer to this scheduling dilemma.

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