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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023

FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CHARLESTOWN VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT



Charlestown Veterans History Project organizer Bill Durette with Massachusetts State Rep. Dan Ryan by a placard with Ryan's uncle William "Joe" Ryan with his neighbor James M Connolly. Both were KIA in France shortly after the 1944 Normandy Invasion. See more photos on Pages 8 and 9.

BPDA Board approves purchase of Charlestown Peace Park

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) Board of directors approved the purchase of the Charlestown Peace Park to support new investments in the space, which includes a portion of the parcel between Lowney Way, Mt. Vernon Street, and Prospect Street in Charlestown. In March 2021, The City of Boston awarded the Charlestown Coalition, in conjunction with the Charlestown Preservation Society, a Community Preservation Award of \$500,000 as an opportunity to fully design and build a renovated park to bring infrastructural improvements, new park furniture, and new plantings to the Peace Park.

The parcel is currently owned by MassDOT, but due to constraints around types of construction that can occur on MassDOT property, the BPDA has acquired the land to facilitate this project for the neighborhood, with the ultimate goal of transferring the land to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department once construction is complete.

"We're happy to enable this project which will improve access to the park, beautify the space, add plantings, and overall further the original community vision for this land," said BPDA Director of Real Estate Rebecca Hansen. "It is great that we can use our unique position as a landowner to make this vision a reality, and we look forward to seeing how the park

evolves over time."

The Peace Park was originally dedicated to the late Robert McGrath, a beloved Charlestown resident who was tragically the victim of community violence 30 years ago. In 2019, a group of neighbors and community members made necessary improvements to the Peace Park, including new plant beds, repairs to park furniture, and repainting fences.

"I want to thank all those involved in The Peace Park process from The Charlestown Coalition and Preservation Society up to our government partners at MassDOT and the BPDA," said Representative Daniel Ryan.

(PEACE PARK Pg. 4)

Developer tentatively designated for Austin Street parking lots

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

During a meeting last week, Trinity Financial was tentatively designated by the Boston Planning and Development Agency's (BPDA) Board of Directors to redevelop the Austin Street parking lots.

Back in May, a request for proposals (RFP) was released for the redevelopment of the lots that have been used by students of Bunker Hill Community College.

"This property was identified as an underutilized site that could address some of Boston's most urgent needs in the public land for public good citywide land audit," said Natalie Deduck of the BPDA.

In July, the BPDA received two proposals to redevelop the property, one from Onyx/DREAM Austin LLC and the other from Trinity Financial, which an internal evaluation committee and project review committee evaluated.

The internal evaluation committee comprised city staff from different departments in the BPDA, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. In comparison, the project review committee was made up

of Charlestown residents.

"Both the internal evaluation committee and the project review committee deemed the Trinity proposal as highly advantageous for its creation of affordable housing, strategic phasing, compelling building designs and open space, accomplished experience, and strong diversity, equity, and inclusion plan," said Deduck.

As part of the presentation to the BPDA Board, Abby Goldenfarb, Trinity's Vice President of Development, went through the plan for the parking lots.

"We are proposing a two-phase development where each phase is oriented around a central green," said Goldenfarb.

She explained that the first phase includes a mix of affordable and market-rental housing within two buildings around an arts common. Retail, a community art gallery, and artist live-work units are also planned with the first phase.

As for the second phase, there are plans for a mix of market and affordable homeownership units between two buildings centered around youth sports fields. This

(AUSTIN STREET LOTS Pg. 8)



Our office
will be closed
Thanksgiving Day,
Nov. 23RD and
Friday, Nov. 24th

EDITORIAL

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

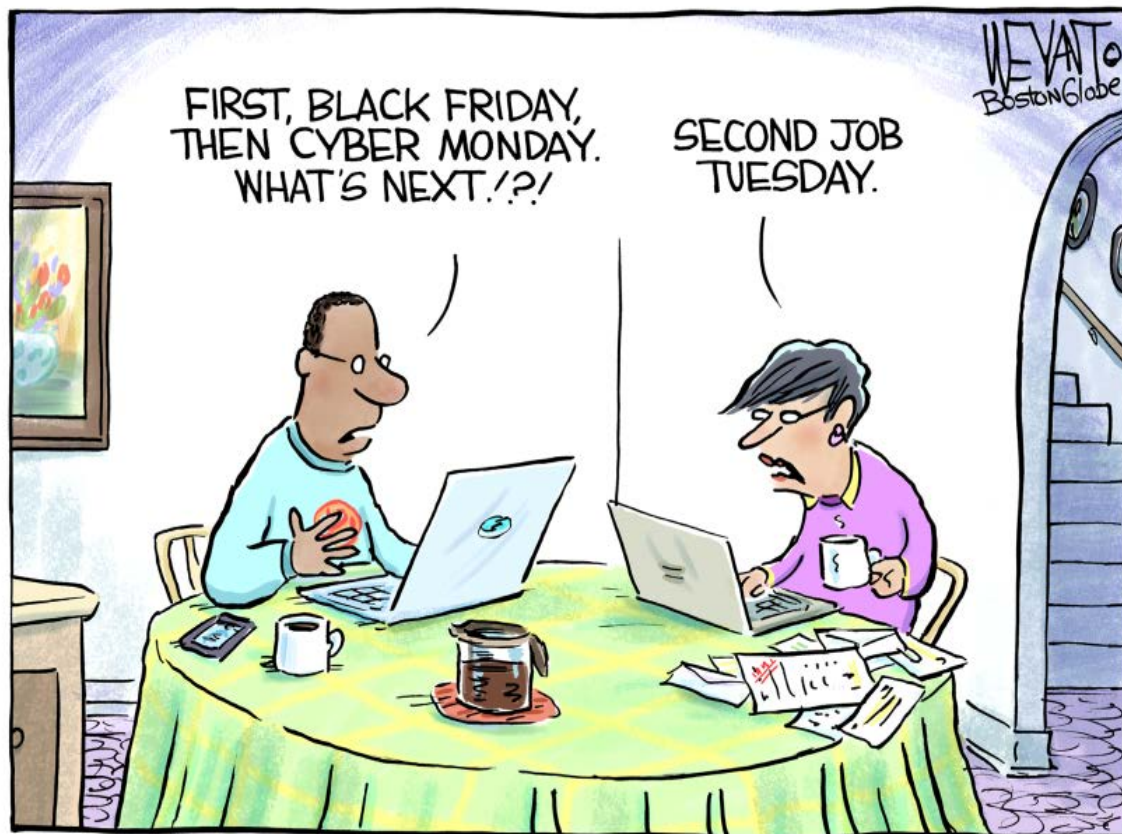
A Harris poll a few years ago revealed that Christmas is the favorite holiday of the year among all age groups of Americans, but we think that Thanksgiving, our uniquely American holiday, has much more to recommend it than Christmas. Thanksgiving has its roots with the Pilgrims, long before the concept of a United States had crossed anyone's mind. It always has been a secular celebration of peace and relaxation. It simply is a day to be grateful for what we have, however much that may be.

Thanksgiving is a day of no pressure. It is the ultimate family-centered holiday. It has no religious meaning, no national-celebration connotations, and no required gift-giving. It lacks the commercialism, solemnity, and political overtones of all of our other national observances. In a world where anxiety follows us 24/7, Thanksgiving provides a welcome respite from the commercialism that accompanies Christmas and most of our other holidays. There is no obligation to spend a lot of money (that many of us do not have in the first place) to buy the perfect gift in order to be the perfect spouse, or the perfect parent, or the perfect friend. Thanksgiving demands nothing more from each of us (other than for the person who is doing all the cooking!) beyond just showing up and enjoying the company of our family and friends and then having a great meal.

When we think of the Christmas vs. Thanksgiving debate, we think it's analogous to the late comedian George Carlin's skit about football vs. baseball (check it out on YouTube if you've never seen it). Football is the equivalent of war, while baseball is all about going home. Similarly, while Christmas epitomizes our hyper-capitalist, consumerist, and frenetic society, Thanksgiving is its antithesis.

Thanksgiving is a national celebration that serves to remind us how blessed we are at a time when circumstances are so cruel for so many others in a world in which there are more refugees than at any time since the end of World War II. Despite our own trials and tribulations, Thanksgiving reminds us how remarkably fortunate we are to live in this country. And in a day and age when so many of us are connected 24/7 to some instrument of communication, it truly is a relief to have a day when we can just shut it all off (other than perhaps watching a football game.)

We wish all of our readers a happy -- and restful -- Thanksgiving.



GUEST OP-ED

Bay Staters deserve opportunities to build a better financial future

By State Reps. Jeffrey Rosario Turco
and Francisco E. Paulino

Whether you grew up in Revere, Winthrop, Lawrence, Brighton, or Boston, every community in the Commonwealth values kitchen-table issues; an honest day's work, safe streets, affordable homes, good schools, access to quality and affordable healthcare, and the ability to earn a good living and save for the future.

Just last month, we were able to pass a historic Tax Relief Bill which will make the Commonwealth more affordable, competitive and equitable by putting real dollars directly back into the pockets of hardworking Bay Staters. Whether it's by increasing the child and dependent tax credit for families or lowering the capital gains tax so folks see more of their money when they invest in their Robinhood or Fidelity accounts, this legislation will provide immediate relief and opportunities for working class people fighting hard every day to make a living.

There's more work to be done. It's no secret that for much of this country's history, the financial system has been largely closed off to most Americans. Teachers, plumbers, steamfitters, steelworkers, nurses, members of the military, and men and women in uniform

simply have not always had the same opportunities to save and build wealth as the one percent.

Until recently, owning stocks was largely reserved for older, wealthy, and less diverse Americans, including those with the means to pay a financial professional to do it for them. Fortunately, recent innovations aimed at empowering a new age of investors tore down these barriers, reshaped our financial system, and paved the way for a massive influx of new investors into the stock market. These millions of new investors are younger, more diverse, and come from every community and every part of the country, including hundreds of thousands of people right here in Massachusetts.

Not only did this transformative shift expand access to the stock market for an entirely new generation of Americans, it has made finance and investing more approachable and relevant to millions of people who had previously avoided it because of its intimidating and exclusive nature. Today, technology has democratized investing with easy-to-use, low-cost mobile platforms like Robinhood that for the first time provide tools allowing ordinary Americans to save a little more, make a few extra dollars in income, and invest in great American companies they

believe in, including companies that are based here in the Commonwealth. These new platforms have not only simplified the act of purchasing a stock, they've increased the overall relevance and interest in personal finance. Whether it's through podcasts, newsletters, or in-app education modules, these platforms are using technology to communicate with and educate investors, making financial literacy more accessible by breaking-down complex concepts such as compounding and dollar cost averaging, as well as the differences between a traditional and Roth IRA and the implications of a 'wash sale' or capital gains.

We must encourage these platforms, who are uniquely positioned, with their reach and resources, to continue prioritizing financial literacy with the understanding that developing a new generation of informed investors will lead them to a more sustainable financial future. We also need to promote sound policies that will help keep these new investors involved for the long-term while protecting them from fraud and abuse. Unfortunately, recent efforts by financial regulators are threatening to throw these new investors right back out of the

(Op-Ed Pg. 3)


CHARLESTOWN
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GUEST OP-ED

Why preventing Diabetes should be a priority at all ages

By Dr. Donna O'Shea

More than 96 million Americans, or 1 in 3 adults, live with a potentially life-altering condition – yet many of them are unaware they even have it.

That condition is prediabetes, which in up to 70% of cases develops into diabetes. Today, more than 37 million Americans already live with diabetes, which if left untreated can contribute to a host of health issues, including heart disease, vision loss, nerve damage and more. In Massachusetts, 7.7% of adults over age 18 have been diagnosed with diabetes.

While the risk of developing type 2 diabetes increases with age, taking steps to avoid or more effectively manage this condition should be a priority for people of all ages. For November's American Diabetes Month, here is important information to consider about this condition.

Types of diabetes: Diabetes alters the body's ability to create energy from the food you eat and can develop in three forms. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the body cannot produce insulin on its

own, typically due to genetic factors. It accounts for approximately 5% of all diabetes cases, there is no known prevention and is typically diagnosed during childhood. Type 2 diabetes accounts for up to 95% of all cases and develops when the body can't use the insulin it produces, typically due to inactivity and poor nutrition. Finally, gestational diabetes may occur in pregnant women, often due to the hormones and weight gain associated with pregnancy.

Diabetes in children: While type 1 diabetes was historically known as juvenile diabetes, that term is no longer truly applicable due to the surging prevalence of type 2 diabetes among children. One primary driver of this is the mounting rates of childhood obesity, which now affects 1 in 5 young people. It's important to note children are at a higher risk of type 2 diabetes if they have a family member with this condition, are overweight, don't get enough physical activity or have prediabetes. Type 2 diabetes in children can lead to an array of health issues in the short- and long-term, including depression, eating disorders, eye damage,

heart disease and more. To help young people reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, make activity a priority throughout the day. Whenever possible, go for a 15-minute walk after meals, as doing so can help the body move sugar from the blood into the muscle cells to help avoid blood sugar spikes.

Diabetes in adults: The number of adults with diabetes has more than doubled during the last two decades. Living with prediabetes, being overweight, not getting enough physical exercise and being over age 45 all put people at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes. For working-age adults with this condition, it's critical to consistently track blood sugar levels, ideally with a continuous glucose monitor. In fact, a growing number of health plans are starting to cover this type of technology, which uses a sensor, often worn on the abdomen, to continuously read glucose levels and transmit the data to a smartphone. Another important strategy for adults and children is to get a routine comprehensive

(OP-ED Pg. 4)

OP-ED (from pg. 2)

markets. At both the state and federal levels, securities regulators are considering new rules that, while intended to protect investors, would strike at the very heart of the online model most prefer to use to invest today. These rules could even make it impossible for financial providers to use the very same innovative technologies that have brought millions into the stock market in the first place. And they are likely to disproportionately harm those underserved populations that for decades have been told they aren't smart enough or wealthy enough to invest.

We reject this narrative, as do many of our colleagues. We've personally spoken to our neighbors – construction workers in Lawrence, firefighters in Revere, cab drivers around Boston, and the staff here in the State House – many of whom tell us that they feel more empowered and equipped than ever before to make their own financial decisions. These are normal people who don't necessarily have the resources, the need, or the desire to completely turn the management of their finances over to expensive professionals. Instead, they've gravitated toward

affordable and easy-to-use mobile platforms that allow them to take a more hands-on approach in managing their finances. These investors deserve strong, sensible regulations that protect them from fraud and abuse, but they also deserve the opportunity to participate fully in our financial system and achieve the American dream.

We will continue to fight in the State House for policies that give our communities both.

Jeffrey Rosario Turco, Esq., is a State Representative, and represents the 19th Suffolk District and Francisco E. Paulino, is a State Representative, and represents the 16th Essex District.

Charlestown Neighborhood Council

2023 Election - At-Large seats

The CNC will hold elections for all eight (8) at-large council seats on December 2, 2023. Election information, nomination papers, and important deadlines can be found on our website:



www.CNC02129.org



@CNC02129



@CNCboston

AUSTIN STREET LOTS (from pg. 1)

phase also proposes a community recreation center and the expansion of the Charlestown Nursery School.

In terms of massing and the total number of units, Goldenfarb indicated that the height of the buildings scale from 12 stories closer to the highway and six stories as you move toward Rutherford Avenue.

The proposal entails a total of 686 units with 146 market rentals, 246 affordable rentals, 128 market homeownership, and 166 affordable homeownership units.

Additionally, the redevelopment is slated to offer tens of thousands of square feet of space for amenities such as retail, indoor recreation, sports fields, art space, and more.

"We are an established company with a long track record of building high quality, affordable and market-rate housing," said Goldenfarb.

"We like to take on complex developments, we welcome the public process, and we look forward to working with the city on this endeavor," she added.

Following the presentation, members of the BPDA Board asked questions and made com-

ments before taking a vote.

Board Member Brian Miller asked about the financing and how it would come together for the project, noting other projects being placed on hold due to the financial markets.

Kenan Bigby, Trinity's Managing Director of Development, explained that he does not have a crystal ball in terms of what the budget will look like once they are through the preliminary approval process.

However, he did say, "We feel confident that the dollars we need will be there," citing the work already done speaking with their contractor and financial partners. Though, he did note the necessity for "quite a bit" of affordable housing subsidy.

Priscilla Rojas, the Board's Chair, also spoke and commended the developer for the early childhood education and Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) components of the project.

In the end, the Board unanimously approved the tentative designation of Trinity Financial. A BPDA release indicates that the proposal will be subject to the Article 80 process.

CHARLESTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CALENDAR

CNC Elections

All eight (8) of the CNC's at-large seats are subject to this election. To participate in the

December 2, 2023 election, completed nomination papers must be hand delivered or postmarked (instructions below) by Friday, November 3, 2023. Please reach out to the Election Committee co-chairs, Mary Boucher and Jay Driscoll, at CNC02129Election@gmail.com with any election questions or contact any council member to learn more about our work.

How to get nomination papers:

- The committee co-chair has dropped off copies at the library.
- Election page on the CNC website.
- 2023 Election CNC Nomination Forms

2023 Fall General Meetings Schedule: All meetings are in person - there is no hybrid option at this time. Guests and presentations will be announced closer to the meeting dates. CNC Committee meetings are scheduled on an as-needed basis by the committee chairs and will be announced on CNC02129.org, Facebook, Instagram, and in the Charlestown Patriot-Bridge.

- December 5, 2023, Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford St. Charlestown MA 02129.

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MEJIA AND GAVIRIA IN THE ALL-STAR SOCCER GAME



Representing Charlestown High at the all-star boys soccer game were Rony Mejia and Samuel Gaviria. The game was played at Carter Field in the South End on Thursday, November 16. Led by Coach Joel Jean-Pierre, the team ends the season at 10-4-2.

Hood Park hosting Winter Village Dec. 9

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

On December 9, Hood Park is hosting a Winter Village that will feature a local artisan holiday mar-

ket, an evergreen Christmas Tree Lot at 6 Stack St., curling lanes, igloos, food/drink, and more! It's going to be an exciting event that is fun for all members of the fam-

ily. The event is from 11 AM to 4 PM at 100 Hood Park Drive. It is free to attend, and food/drink will be available to purchase.

PEACE PARK (from pg. 1)

"This arrangement will allow the renovation and beautification of a plot of land into a peaceful urban respite. A site dedicated to Robert McGrath, a proud public servant, this park will serve as a space for quiet reflection for all."

The Charlestown Coalition youth program, Turn It Around, began regularly picking up litter, raking leaves, planting flowers, and leading ongoing maintenance to improve the site. In 2020, the Turn It Around program was awarded a Love Your Block grant for \$2,700 from the City of Boston, enabling them to hold several events on the site. These events

included painting stones in the name of loved ones lost to violence, holding a Peace Walk in the neighborhood that started and ended at the Peace Park, and incorporating plaques with quotes about peace on the benches. The idea originally emerged during a PLAN: Charlestown engagement event.

"As members of the Coalition, alongside the dedicated Friends of the Peace Park Non-Profit, we believe that completing this project could be the culmination of our efforts in Charlestown. It's about integrating all facets of the community into a shared space that enables us to grow and evolve

together," said Melanie Soto of the Charlestown Coalition. "This space aims to reach individuals who may not have previously considered our small park, but who can contribute to the future we are trying to nurture. This isn't just our park; it's an endeavor rooted in showing the community that we welcome them to this space without invitation or judgment."

The Capital Construction team within the BPDA's Real Estate Department will oversee all aspects of construction in order to deliver a finished site to the Parks Department.

OP-ED (from pg. 3)

eye exam, which can help diagnose diabetic retinopathy and help individuals recognize the need to better control their blood glucose levels. Diabetic retinopathy may occur in people with diabetes and causes damage to the blood vessels in the retina, leading to blindness in some cases.

Diabetes in older adults: Nearly 30% of adults 65 and older live with diabetes, which increases the risk for certain cancers and cognitive impairment, such as Alzheimer's disease. Not only that, older adults with diabetes are more likely to develop certain vision issues,

such as glaucoma and cataracts, and the condition may contribute to hearing loss by causing nerve damage in the inner ear. Staying active and eating a balanced diet is crucial, including a focus on consuming healthy proteins (chicken, fish or turkey), non-starchy fibrous vegetables (broccoli, green beans or carrots) and a moderate amount of carbohydrates (brown rice, sweet potato or whole-grain breads or pasta). Interval eating may also be a strategy to consider, including waiting at least an hour after waking up to eat breakfast and avoiding food within three

hours of sleep.

For many people, type 2 diabetes is largely preventable with lifestyle modifications, such as a nutritious diet, consistent exercise and maintaining a healthy weight. Understanding your risk factors and staying on top of your health – starting during childhood and as you age – may help you prevent or better manage type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Donna O'Shea is the Chief Medical Officer of Population Health for UnitedHealthcare.

charlestown art happenings

annual OPEN STUDIOS

At the StoveFactory
december 2&3

tour the studios, meet artists
free demos 11-5pm each day

SMALL WORKS sale & exhibition

a celebration of small artwork
december 2 & 3, along with open studios 11-5PM
december 9 & 10, 12-5pm



stovefactory gallery
523 medford street

visit artistsgroupofcharlestown.com
for information on upcoming and continuing events

Contact charlestownads@hotmail.com to add your art events

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Derenzo, Dawna	Bulva, Yana	14 Soley St #14	\$1,000,000
Wehler, Cheryl	Wehler, David M	22 Belmont St	\$200,000
Laverriere, Nathan	Bradshaw, Terence S	36 Monument Ave	\$2,550,000
Campana, Elizabeth	Adam P Scott Lt	107 Russell St #1	\$525,000
Randolph, Madeline F	Jensen, Suzanne	425 Bunker Hill St #2	\$890,000



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Henry Bear's Park to open in Charlestown

Popular Boston-area toy store expands to trendy Hood Park in Charlestown

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

Shopping in Charlestown is about to get a little more playful! Children's toy and gift store Henry Bear's Park has set up shop in the retail space at 500 Rutherford Avenue. In a time where many brick-and-mortar businesses are closing their doors due to online competition, Henry Bear's Park's presence in Charlestown marks their ninth location as they continue to grow in neighborhoods throughout New England. Owner Kas Sharma

attributes this staying power in an increasingly digital age to a carefully curated product selection and a unique experience offered within the walls of the toy store.

"We do the work of sorting through all the junk out there to offer only the best playthings and fun stuff to our customers, and I think they trust us to make those choices. They know they're getting a quality gift that is going to really wow the person they're buying for without the overwhelming digi-



The exterior of Henry Bear's Park.



A corner of the inside of the store is filled with fun games and activities for kids.

tal hunt. Plus, our physical stores are more than just retail spaces. We're a place where families come and hang out, and we consider ourselves a part of the community more than anything. We host events; we have all kinds of games and demo toys for kids to try out and play with. We work hard to create a welcoming and friendly environment for everyone."

A family-owned business since 1976, Henry Bear's Park has been a favorite kid-stop for all things play, serving Boston area families for over four decades and enjoying a loyal customer base that spans multiple generations. "We are excited to become a part of such a vibrant community in Charlestown," remarked Sharma. "When we first discovered that the space was available at Hood Park, we instantly saw this as a great opportunity. The area is going to be really cute, and with several schools and family friendly housing nearby, we think we'll be a good fit for the community."

"The addition of Henry Bear's Park to Hood Park furthers our goal of bringing well-run local retail options to our community and developing a space that offers something for everyone," said Chris Kaneb, Vice President of Catamount Management and Manager of Hood Park LLC. "We are committed to cultivating inclusive, multigenerational experiences in Charlestown – Henry Bear's Park is a welcomed addition to the Hood Park campus."

For more information on Henry Bear's Park, visit their website at henrybearspark.com, or stop in at 500 Rutherford Avenue to check it out for yourself.

The Parish Families of St. Mary – St. Catherine of Siena & St. Francis de Sales

Harvest on Vine

Emergency Food Pantry

HAPPY

THANKSGIVING

We appreciate your support & hope you will remember us on #givingtuesday



MGH INSTITUTE
OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Happy Thanksgiving

To our friends and neighbors—
from the students, faculty, and staff at
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mghihp.edu



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD

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ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL HARVEST FAIR

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Shannon Fry selling baked goods.



In the kitchen Dan Spinetto works hard to cook the turkeys.



Attendees of the Harvest Fair enjoyed a turkey dinner with pie à la mode.

Since 1840 St. John’s Episcopal Church has held its Harvest Fair. The fundraising event consists of a hearty turkey dinner as well as an

arts and crafts sale. All were welcome to visit St. John’s and be a part of the community.



Ethan Sardina prepares the pie à la mode.



Volunteer Dominic Varnham helps prepare the pie à la mode.



Diane Bellavance selling jewelry.



Volunteer Simon Ringrose finds a spot on the porch.



Volunteer Dan Spinetto with his dad Steve. This was the first year that Dan got to cook the turkeys.



John and Christine Jeffrey came from Chelsea for the Harvest Fair.

Wishing all of
Charlestown a
Happy & Healthy
Thanksgiving

**Knights of Columbus
Bunker Hill Council #62
545 Medford Street**

**HAPPY
Thanksgiving**

Mass General Brigham
Charlestown HealthCare Center
Committed to Care for the Charlestown Community
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Stay safe by getting your flu & covid vaccines.



Rev Greg Johnston gets a visit from Nate and Abby Bresler.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL HARVEST FAIR

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Jen DiManno, Steve Spinetto, Louise Ambler-Osborn, and Robin Moody take a break from their volunteer duties to enjoy some turkey dinner.



Attendees of the Harvest Fair enjoyed a turkey dinner with pie ala mode.



Letaire Thompson selling candles.



Upstairs were vendors selling baked goods along with arts and crafts.



Turn It Around had a table at the Fall Festival.

Happy Holidays!

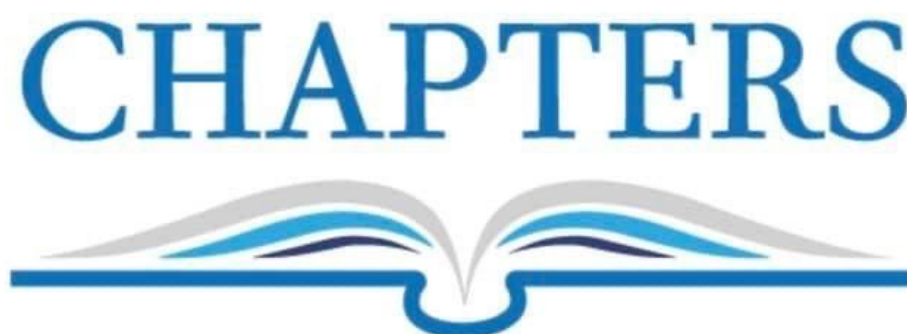
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Sending you and your family the warmest wishes this Thanksgiving



Chapters Recovery Center
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<http://www.chaptersrecoverycenter.com/>

ARE YOU READY TO CHANGE YOUR STORY?




A Joyful Day to You

Happy Thanksgiving!

from everyone
'Up at the Club'

Charlestown
Boys and Girls Club

HAPPY Holidays!




KENNEDY CENTER
CHARLESTOWN, MA

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November 28 is #givingtuesday, we hope you will consider us for a year end gift

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CHARLESTOWN VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

Derek Kouyoumjian Photos


The Charlestown Veterans History Project has been presented by Bill Durette for 20 years. Placards depict Charlestown residents who served their country since WWI. The project is a reminder of those who risked, and some who sacrificed, all.



Tommy Howard stands in front of a placard depicting his family service during WWII. His father William F. Howard is in the upper left corner of the placard.



Mike with Luke Rowsey take a look at Charlestown's contribution to defending our country.



Charlestown writer Bobby Powers looks at the placards.

CHARLESTOWN HIGH CHEERLEADERS TAKE SECOND PLACE IN BPL CHEERLEADING COMPETITION



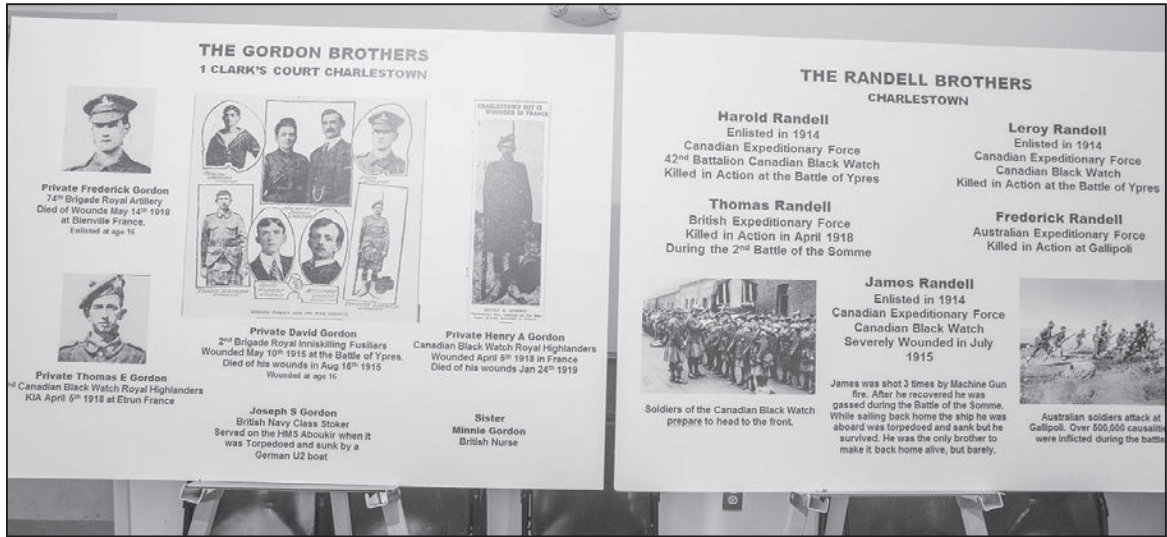
P CONNER PIC

The Charlestown High School Cheerleading squad celebrate their 2nd place finish at the BPL Cheerleading competition on Sunday, November 12, at the Reggie Lewis Track Center.

CHARLESTOWN VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL



Knights Of Columbus Hall was transformed into a memorial for the Charlestown residents who served their country.



Placards depicting Charlestown Residents who fought in WWI.



Shown above and below, there was an emphasis on the Korean War as it's the 70th anniversary of the conflict's end.



CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT BRIDGE

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

December

M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6

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CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET

Cary Shuman Photos

The Charlestown Girls Softball League, under the direction of President Jack Schievink, held its Awards Banquet Nov. 16 at the Knights of Columbus. Team and individual awards were presented during the program.

Seventy girls participated on travel teams that competed in the City Town Softball League (spring), the Middle Essex Softball League (summer), the USA Softball League (fall), and the D&R Softball League (winter) at the D&R Indoor Sports Arena in Topsfield. Five Charlestown teams

won intercity championships during the year.

Schievink is in his 33rd season as president of the organization that has players from ages 5 to 14 competing in instructional and highly competitive leagues against teams throughout eastern Massachusetts. Charlestown teams play

their home games at the Charlestown High School turf field.

Schievink, a legendary sports personality in Charlestown, lauded his associates, Billy Nugent, Tracey Buckley, Katie Mabardi, and Mike Lynch for their immense contributions in making the 2023 season a huge success.

(Championship team and individual award photos, including the presentation of the annual Joseph D. Hayes Award by the Hayes family to Kathryn Lynch, will appear in next week's edition).



The 8-U Spring White team, with coaches Caroline Conroy and Grace Timlin.



The 8-U Spring Columbia team, with coaches Stephanie King and Rich Doucette.



The 10-U Spring Navy team, with coaches Mike Lynch.



The 10-U Spring Columbia team, with coaches Kendall Miller, Kate Wright, and Katie Mabardi.

CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

Weekly Standings Week of 11/18/2023

	W	L	T
Massport's Finest	7	1	2
A-1 Convenience	4	3	3
Halligan Club	2	4	4
Duce 2	1	6	3

Players of the week for 11/18/2023

A-1 Convenience - Montae McCarthy, Noah Martinez
Duce 2 - Cooper Doucette, William Wright
Halligan Club - Jondel Rogue, Peyton King
Massport's Finest - Ian Schramm, Tristan Weisang



The 14-U Fall team, with coaches Jack Schievink and Heather Thompson.

CHARLESTOWN GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET



The 12-U Winter team, with coaches Mike Lynch (back, left), Jack Schievink (back, right), and Heather Thompson (front row, right).



The 12-U Spring team, with coaches Jack Schievink and Heather Thomson.



The 10-U Summer Columbia team, with coaches Kendall Miller, Billy Nugent, and Katie Mabardi.



The 10-U Summer Navy team, with coach Mike Lynch. Missing from photo: coach Mike Fenn.



The 12-U Summer team, with coaches Jack Schievink and Heather Thompson.



The 8-U Fall team, with coaches Rich Doucette and Grace Timlin.



The 10-U Fall team, with coaches Mike Lynch, Billy Nugent, and Katie Mabardi.

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MBC holds first meeting in-person since shutdown

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

For the first time since the COVID-19 shutdown, the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) gathered on Beacon Hill on October 31 for an in-person

hearing on the state of the region's beaches. This was also the first opportunity for the Commission to hear from recently appointed DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo on his priorities and vision for the agency. The Metropolitan Beaches



Metropolitan Beaches Commissioners left to right: Representative Tackey Chan, Kerin O'Toole, Mercy Robinson, Representative Jessica Giannino, Senator Brendan Crighton, Representative Adrian Madaro, Representative Joan Meschino, Assistant Deputy Commissioner Susan Hamilton.

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State Senator Sal DiDomenico & Family

Commission is managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and is responsible for making recommendations on the maintenance, improvement and accessibility of the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

Over 100 people attended the hearing in person or over Teams as DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo testified to the agency's efforts to address recommendations from the MBC's Breaking Barriers report, including steps towards equity and diversity-focused hiring practices and improvements to ADA-accessibility. Commissioner Arrigo also committed to adding more multilingual signage to the region's beaches before the 2024 beach season.

"We are really proud of all the work that has brought us to this point today," said Commission Co-Chair Senator Brendan Crighton. "Our collective work to break down with a particular focus on

racial equity and language equity has identified concrete action steps to help address very complex long-standing issues that impact our beaches and communities."

"DCR's public beaches belong to everyone, and all of our residents should be able to safely access and enjoy them," said DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo. "We are committed to working with the Commission and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to ensure our metropolitan region's public beaches are welcoming places for everyone regardless of race, ability, language or income."

The MBC and Commissioner Arrigo also discussed potential for improving the flagging protocols on our region's beaches to communicate to the public more clearly on the infrequent days when water quality may be potentially unsafe for swimming, usually following a heavy rainfall. While Massachusetts continues to boast some of the country's cleanest urban beaches, storm-

water runoff can impact that quality. Director of Green Infrastructure for the City of Boston Kate England addressed the increased impacts of stormwater due to climate change and the potential to mitigate those impacts through strategic green infrastructure improvements, teasing up the Commission's next efforts to address climate resiliency and sea level rise along our coast.

"The beaches are absolutely a critical open space and natural resource for the Commonwealth and need ongoing improvements," said Co-Chair Rep. Adrian Madaro. "We have had great success working in partnership with DCR to upgrade our public beaches and are looking forward to continuing our collaboration so all families can enjoy them no matter what part of the world they come from."

The Commission also heard testimony from members of the public who spoke to the success of the Better Beaches Program, which brought over 200 free public and diverse cultural events to the beaches this past summer, and also addressed community specific concerns about water quality in Lynn and Dorchester that the Commission will continue to try and address.

"It's terrific to have a Commissioner that shares our goals and values when it comes to making our spectacular urban beaches accessible to everyone," said Save the Harbor Executive Director Chris Mancini. "We're looking forward to supporting and collaborating with our partners at DCR to continue breaking barriers for people of color, people with disabilities and those who don't speak English as a first language. And to see if we can't do something about rising seas while we're at it."

Next steps for the MBC are to keep partnering with DCR to address the infrastructure and equity priorities discussed at the hearing, and to host a series of community charrettes in beachfront neighborhoods on strategies for dealing with rising seas and other effects of climate change.

For more information and to connect with the MBC, visit www.savetheharbor.org/mbc.

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