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DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Pier 5 Association held its annual Earth Day Celebration. Shown above, members of the Pier 5 Association, organizers of the Earth Day event. Right, Charli and Julian Bertrand make some cards to send to family members. Below are Tricia Butler, BPD CSO Chrissy Vraibel, Mary Dewey, BFD Captain Mark Dunnigan, Carol Coleman, Lois Gallagher, and BPD Officer Frank Wong. See Pages 5-7 for more photos.



House passes bill to remove outdated and offensive terms

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed two bills that update the Massachusetts General Laws by removing out-of-date and offensive terms related to persons with disabilities, and by renaming the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) as MassAbility.

“As lawmakers, we know that words matter,” said Speaker of the House Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “This legislation is our latest effort to ensure that our state laws do not use antiquated words that carry negative connotations, words that also serve as a reminder of past injustices. I would like to thank Chairman Livingstone and the entire Joint Committee of Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, as well as Governor Healey and the bill sponsors, for their work on this important legislation.”

“The name ‘MassAbility’ will help to reduce stigma and better reflect the strengths and capabilities of the people we serve,” said Governor Maura Healey. “We’re grateful to Speaker Mariano and the House for advancing this critical legislation.”

“The language we use reflects our values, and this legislation will ensure that our laws and institutions are updated to treat the individuals they serve with dignity

and respect,” said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). “Outdated and offensive language has no place in our statutes, and these changes underscore our commitment to advancing and uplifting persons with disabilities in our communities across the Commonwealth.”

An Act relative to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities removes out-of-date and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws when referencing people with disabilities. The language in the bill removes all variations of outdated terms such as “handicapped,” “disabled,” and “retarded.” The bill replaces these terms with current terminology such as “person with a disability” and “person with an intellectual disability.” Additionally, the term “autistic” is replaced with “autism” in reference to Autism Awareness Month. Originally filed by Governor Healey, the House also passed legislation to rename the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission to MassAbility and to update the outdated terms included in its enabling statute.

“Removing out-of-date, antiquated and offensive language from the Massachusetts General Laws to describe people with disabilities is an important step

(OUTDATED Pg. 10)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC Meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7 PM.

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person public meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, from 7-9 PM at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. Please bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com. Check CNC02129.org for calendar and updates.

The 2024 Charlestown Mayoral candidate survey

The 2024 All Roads Charlestown, Mayor of Charlestown Race has officially begun. We are excited to announce that we have two amazing candidates running for the title this year. Both Colby and Tim have planned some great events for our community, so make sure to follow them on their journey and enjoy all the festivities. All Roads Charlestown has also established a Mayor's Race committee; Kelliagh Moses, Meghan Collins, Nikki Nutter-Jenkins, and Patty Kelley have graciously joined us in our efforts to continue and grow this beloved community tradition. The winner will be announced on Saturday June 15, 2024 at the All Roads Charlestown Bunker Hill Day Block Party. For all updates and questions please follow: @allroadscharlestown on IG/FB or contact us at allroadscharlestown@gmail.com

Please get to know your candidates below!

Candidate Tim McKenna

1. How long have you lived in Charlestown?

We moved to Charlestown from Brooklyn, NY in the summer of 2010, so coming up on 14 years.

2. Tell us about yourself: Who are you?

I grew up in California and came out to Boston where I met my wife, Shannon Fitzgerald, while we were attending Boston University's School for the Arts. We have three kids, Hannah(15), Desmond(11) and Finnuala(9). I'm a dual Irish-US citizen as my father was born in Belfast and I'm the 12th great grandson of Thomas Dudley who settled on the Charlestown peninsula in 1630 with the Arbella company. Maybe. I've been involved with Charlestown Youth Soccer on the board for the better part of the last decade and have done my best to represent all youth sports programs by sitting on the Charlestown Neighborhood Council as a non-profit seat for the last 5 years.

3. What are your favorite hobbies?

bies?

I love to play golf, and with some other dads in town we started the Charlestown Golf Club last year. I play for the Charlestown Football Club, men's over 40 league. Other than sports, I love to cook and share meals with friends and I love to play music still, when I can. If I can't be doing any of those things myself, I like to watch sports, eat great food, and listen to music.

4. What does it mean to you, to be a part of the Charlestown community?

Super grateful! This is the place we chose to raise our children. They are a reflection of the two best decisions in my life, to marry their amazing mother, and to raise them in this community. We have made some of our best friends here in town and it's great to see all the kids growing up together. I try to do all I can to help give back to the community that has given this to us.

5. What is your favorite Charlestown event?

It has to be the Bunker Hill Day parade. It's my favorite day of the year, especially when it falls on Father's Day, the US Open Final, and the inevitability of the Charlestown Men's over 40 soccer team fighting off relegation or for promotion. This year is lining up for more of the same and I'm super excited for our campaigns capstone event at the KoC Thursday Night of Parade week. It will be a lot of fun.

6. What is your favorite memory of Charlestown?

The first parade day was pretty special, but I'd have to say seeing the kids in the Warren Prescott musicals every year are my favorite memories. They work so hard and it really shows what the kids are capable of when pushed to achieve something spectacular and supported by so many caring parents.

7. What is your favorite spot in Charlestown?

There are so many, but I'd have to say Pier 4 at night. I've caught a few striped sea bass off that pier, but even on summer nights when we don't catch anything, it's just so nice to be out there with friends and take in the views of the harbor.

8. How can people vote for you?

You can Venmo our business account at @timformayor. Every vote = \$1. We'll be out in the community, often down at the Charlestown High School fields selling them as well. If you would like to offer your ballots for the raffle to be entered on behalf of another charity or non-profit in town, please note that when sending over on Venmo. We'll have some more information on the events we are hosting soon. The most important thing is to support the parade and everything else that All Roads Charlestown does for the community. If you haven't contributed in the past, make this your year. If you feel some back payments are in order, let that feeling compel you. If you don't want to vote for me, donate to Colby, or better, both of us. Maybe 3:2 in my favor. If you'd like to help support the campaign in any other way, we'd love your help. You can email me at tmckenna@charlestownsoccer.com

Candidate Colby Cahill

1. How long have you lived in Charlestown?

I was born and raised in Charlestown, it's about to be 28 years living in the town that I call home.

2. Tell us about yourself: Who are you?

I am an eighth generation townie who grew up knowing what it means to be a part of a community. My family ran Charlestown Little League where I spent most of my days working the concession stand and handing out equipment. I grew up as a Club kid and eventually became the Aquatics Program Manager for many years.

3. What are your favorite hobbies?

I love to travel, spending time with my family, checking out new bars/restaurants and dancing with my friends!

4. What does it mean to you, to be a part of the Charlestown community?

Being part of the Charlestown community means being connected to a group of people who share a sense of belonging and support. It's about contributing positively to the neighborhood's traditions and working together to make Charlestown a better place for everyone.

5. What's your favorite event in Charlestown?

One of my favorite Charlestown events is Music Bingo! If you ever attended, I'm sure you've seen me on the dance floor!

6. What's your favorite memory from Charlestown?

Being from Charlestown, I don't have a specific favorite memory - there's too many to count. From cheerleading at Pop Warner, playing in the McGonagle tournament as a kid, to helping down the neck, going to Family Fun Nights at the Harvard Kent, watching the Kitchen Kup/Townie Cup games. This town has given me an abundance of favorite memories!

7. What's your favorite spot in Charlestown?

I can always count going to the Warren Tavern for a good time! I do have to give a shout out to Monument for their Espresso Martini.

8. How can people vote for you?

VENMO: @Colby-Cahill or if you don't have that, you can email colbypcahill@gmail.com.

I am holding a Kentucky Derby fundraiser event at Urban Wild on Saturday May 4th 3pm-7pm. FREE ENTRY. Wear your Derby best! There will be raffle prizes, 50/50 raffle and a golf contest! Hope to see you there!

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The Castle Group appoints Melissa Paiva as Social Media Account Director

With dramatic growth and increasingly integrated client engagements, The Castle Group, a Boston-based public relations, event management and marketing firm, has appointed Melissa Paiva to the newly-created role of social media account director.

Paiva specializes in organic and paid social media strategy and activation, amplifying brands, building audiences, and community engagement. As social media account director, she oversees the implementation and optimization of social channels on behalf of clients and the agency, providing insight, direction, strategy, and execution.

“At the heart of it all, we’re communicators – and social media touches every aspect of what we

do at Castle to reach our clients’ key audiences,” said Sandy Lish, Castle principal and co-founder. “With Melissa’s impressive track record working across critical sectors like healthcare, financial services and consumer, she understands the power of language and the need for clear voices across all platforms. She’s here to guide our clients, our teams, and help us stay ahead of the curve. She’s already made such an impact and we’re lucky to have her.”

Prior to joining Castle, Paiva held social media management roles at Gupta Media and Full Contact Advertising where she partnered with regional influencers to amplify the organic social media efforts of brands like Papa Gino’s, New England Honda, and

Massachusetts State Lottery.

At Brigham and Women’s Hospital, she helped develop and execute a new social media strategy as the hospital rebranded under the Mass General Brigham system. Paiva’s additional experience includes stints at Citizens Bank and Reebok, where she supported partnerships with the Philadelphia Phillies, Lawn on D, Spartan Race, Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and assisted on Reebok’s rebranding campaign.

“Those who help craft and control the narrative are best positioned to lead social media efforts, in good times and in times of crisis. Social media has become a natural vertical for Castle and our clients,” said Paiva. “I’ve always wanted to be in a space that prioritizes mis-

sion and helping the general community share their stories with the world. There’s an element of trust when you walk through the doors, and I am truly thankful for the entrepreneurial spirit that Castle encourages us all to bring to our work.”

Paiva grew up in Glastonbury, CT and came to Massachusetts to study communications with a focus on advertising and graphic design, earning her bachelor’s degree from Endicott College in 2014. She lives in South Boston with her fiancé and dog, Brewster.

About The Castle Group

Headquartered in Boston, The Castle Group leverages its local connections and global reach to create communications strategies that deliver business results

through PR, events management, crisis communications, public affairs, marketing and social media. With a client roster that covers Fortune 500, high-growth startups, privately held, energy, higher education, technology, life sciences, health care, consumer and non-profits, Castle is supremely skilled at navigating complex organizations and surfacing unique ways to powerfully deliver clients’ messages. A certified women-owned business founded in 1996, Castle has been recognized with industry awards including Inc. Power Partners, Forbes Top Public Relations Agencies, PRNews’ Top 100 Agency Elite, Top WBE CEOs, and Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year.

Coletta, legislators take ‘Pledge to Waste Less’

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

With nearly 40% of food going unsold and uneaten and tens of millions of people facing food insecurity in the United States (including over 500,000 in Massachusetts alone), food recovery organization, Spoonfuls, debuted its “Pledge to Waste Less” this month.

The pledge aims to engage individuals, businesses, schools, and community groups across the Commonwealth in commitments to curb their wasted food footprints, with participants including U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Hunger Caucus, Jim McGovern, State Representative Hannah Kane (along with all seven of her co-chairs on the bipartisan, bicameral Massachusetts Food System Caucus), and Boston City Councilor Gabriela Coletta.

In a speech on the House floor last week, McGovern, whose decades-long political career has centered on opportunities to end hunger and build a stronger food system, said he’s focused on policy solutions, including building support for food recovery. “I’ve always said that, in America, we have a mismatch: Acres of fresh fruits and vegetables and some of the most talented farmers in the world, yet nearly 40 million Americans go hungry. We have enough food to feed everyone, yet so much goes to waste.”

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree of Maine concurred. A member of the House Agriculture Committee and Ranking Member of the House

Appropriations Interior and Environmental Subcommittee, Pingree cited the environmental impacts of wasted food as an impetus for her participation in the Pledge to Waste Less.

Said Pingree, “The staggering amount of food waste in America is not only costly for families, businesses, and farmers but also has a huge environmental impact. As I work in Congress to support food recovery, like fixing our outdated and confusing food date labeling system, I pledge to do my part at home to curb my food waste by using leftovers, making and sticking to grocery lists, and rethinking food date labels. For the sake of our planet, I urge others to consider taking the pledge, too.”

Spoonfuls’ pledge is part of a larger effort by the organization to call attention to the problem of wasted food and its impact on people, planet, and the economy. By debuting the pledge during Earth Month, the organization, which picks up still-good, unsold food from retailers, like grocery stores, and distributes it to food programs across the state, hopes to leverage broad interest in climate-focused initiatives to spotlight the role reducing wasted food can have.

The pledge is available online and paired with real-time recommendations for concrete action steps participants can take to curb their wasted food footprints. It has applications for households and businesses, which are each responsible for roughly 50 percent of landfilled food in the U.S.

Said Spoonfuls’ Senior Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Joni Kusminsky, specifically engaging policymakers in the pledge is a nod to the importance of public policy as a critical driver in making long term, systemic change in the food system. “We need individual action to curb waste and feed people,” said Kusminsky. “But sound public policy can help to underscore the importance of those actions, drive future action, and make it possible for more people and businesses to take steps to reduce wasted food.”

Kusminsky points to Massachusetts’ Organics Waste Ban and pending state and federal legislation aimed at expanding food literacy and standardizing date labels as opportunities to bolster individual action.

“With wasted food consuming over 6% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and 24% of landfill inputs, preventing wasted food is a way to honor the resources it took to produce that food in the first place, mitigate the climate emergency, and ensure more people have the food they need for their health,” said Kusminsky.

To learn more and participate in the Pledge to Waste Less, visit: spoonfuls.org/earth-month.

Through food recovery and food distribution, education, and advocacy, Spoonfuls works to address the health, environmental, and economic impact that wasted food has on people and the planet. Learn more at spoonfuls.org.

BROODER BOX



Zoe is showing a duck puppet the new Pond, Lake, River, Sea book and the brooder box that will hold CNS ducklings later this month.



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EDITORIAL

COLLEGE PROTESTERS SHOULD EMBRACE BEING ARRESTED

Acts of civil disobedience by definition imply that a person knowingly is breaking the law and is willing to accept the legal consequences.

When Rosa Parks took a seat at the front of that bus in Alabama and was arrested in 1955, she set off a legal battle -- which eventually resulted in the striking down of the segregationist law as unconstitutional -- that ignited the modern civil rights movement.

Photos of Parks being fingerprinted at the police station galvanized Americans everywhere (well, except in the Deep South) and made her an icon of the struggle for justice and equality.

Just a few years ago, the 1960s peace activist Jane Fonda, now in her 80s, was at it again, being arrested on the steps of the Capitol building weekly, this time to protest the lack of action by the government to tackle climate change.

Being arrested has been a badge of honor by protesters for whom being placed into handcuffs represents the ultimate act of defiance of those in power.

But the students today who are occupying college campuses in violation of university policies want to have it both ways: They want to defy the authorities, but feel that they are entitled to have carte blanche to do so without any consequences.

Admission to a prestigious school does not entitle a person to special treatment when it comes to laws that apply to everybody. Yes, the students have a right to protest. But school officials also have the obligation to keep their campuses open and safe for all students. When these protesting students break the law and the rules of their campuses, they should be willing -- with defiant joy -- to accept the consequences.

Unless these students are willing to have some skin in the game, so to speak, their moral outrage amounts to nothing more than a frivolous exercise.

OPPONENTS OF AID TO UKRAINE SHOULD WATCH FRANKLIN

Here's the plot-line: A world superpower, led by a ruler-for-life who does not tolerate dissent, invades a young sovereign nation, which at one time had been part of the superpower, with a large military force in order to restore the young nation to its sphere of influence. The young nation seeks the aid of another superpower in the world in order to fight off the invading force and to assert its claim to independence and freedom.

This very well could describe the situation today among Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, but that's also the scenario that unfolded 250 years ago when the United States proclaimed its independence from England and needed military assistance from France in order to fight back against the might of the British Empire.

The new Apple TV+ series, Franklin, chronicles the effort by Benjamin Franklin (who is played superbly by Michael Douglas) to enlist the aid of France in our fight against King George, who invaded America with a vastly-superior army and navy to squash our quest for freedom and democracy.

The Americans lacked everything -- uniforms, muskets, artillery, ships -- that they needed to fight off the British. Without Franklin's diplomacy that persuaded the French to provide America with the means to defend itself, we never could have won the Revolutionary War, which lasted a long eight years from the firing of the first shots at Concord in April, 1775, to the Treaty of Paris in September, 1783.

Prior to the French government formally declaring its alliance with the United States, French citizens who sympathized with the Americans, most notably the Marquis de Lafayette, defied their country's official policy and fought with the Americans, providing both moral support to our army and highlighting the justice of our cause to everyone around the world.

Those who oppose our aid to Ukraine (which Congress finally approved after a delay of six months) in order to help the Ukrainians repel the barbarous invasion by Vladimir Putin would do well to watch the Franklin mini-series on Apple TV+.

They would be reminded that the lesson of history is plain: Freedom isn't free and, to paraphrase Martin Luther King, tyranny anywhere is tyranny everywhere.

THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ATTENDEES

To the Editor,

Pier 5 Association wants to thank all the contributors, supporters, volunteers, and attendees for the Third Annual Pier 5 Earth Day. We are grateful for the City of Boston support by the participation of Boston Fire Department, Boston Police, Boston Inspectional Services Department, Boston Water & Sewer, Boston Waste, and Mayor Wu's Youth Engagement, plus Harvest on Vine, E Inc, Mothers Out Front, Love Dog Band, Rodentcide, ARC Climate Resilience, Charlestown Moth-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ers Association and Charlestown Public Library Book Exchange, Ecodesign, Quake, Mystic River Watershed, NOAA, Paul Revere, Courageous Sailing Center, ALLO, My Neighbors have Feathers, Squirrelish Designs, Aarshia & Friends, Captain Eric.I, Bunker Hill Monument Association, Bunker Hill Parade, Seashell petting and Seed planting, Market Basket, Cycle Boat Raffle, Flynn Insurance, James Kenneally, Mitch Griffins, and Kaleidoscope face painting and bubbles, JoAnn Grigoli, Dave Harvey, Paul and Jen Hughes, Nancy/Christine/Peter Maher, Diane & Bob O'Leary, Olivia Steinke, Christine Colley, Sherrie Cutler, Kathy Kohlar, Tony Troiano, Yolande Volpe, and Ann & Michael Kelleher.

The community endorsement

of a Pier 5 Park crosses all demographics. We appreciate the support.

Pier 5 Association Board

THANK YOU ALL!

To the Editor,

Dianne Dolan and Carol Schweigert of the Artists Group of Charlestown would like to thank all their family, friends, neighbors, and faithful clients for their love and support during our show, "There and Back Again: An Exploration" at the StoveFactory Gallery in Charlestown.

We are grateful for this opportunity to share our art with the community.

Dianne Dolan
Carol Schweigert

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 021 We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

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PIER 5 ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Eliza Munson is inspired by Lexi The Pirate's bubble making to make her own.

The Pier 5 Association held its annual Earth Day Celebration. Visitors were treated to refreshments, entertainment, educational presentations, and neighborly fun at Charlestown's last large parcel of undeveloped property on Boston Harbor.



Makenzie Lloyd, Emily Mitko, and Pesto take a walk together enjoying the day and festivities at Pier 5.



Lexi The Pirate shows off her bubble conjuring skills.



Olivia Footit with "e" Inc The Planet Science Learning & Action Center



Professor Mo Ehsani with QuakeWrap Inc offers info on bridge and dock repair solutions.



Lucy, Shea, and Avery with their parents John and Megan.

Battle Of Bunker Hill Parade Donations 2024	
Everett Marcotte	50
The Halligan Club	5000
Friends of Charlestown Elderly	200
John Powers Candidate For Clerk Of Civil Courts Suffolk County	300
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Marilyn Brassil	50
Phil Jenkins (Palestar)	1000
Tom & Maureen Haley	100
Lia McCarty	25
Ingrid Gude	100
Donna Barbieri	200

Donations may be made to:
Bunker Hill Parade Committee,
P.O. Box 290741,
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Visit www.charlestownbridge.com

PIER 5 ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



The weather brightened up for a perfect day at Pier 5.



Freda Wiley and Dan Hymers with Eastern Service Workers Association. They are looking for volunteers to help bring attention to ending poverty and preventing climate change.



Kevin and Kaeden LeBlanc hang out at the edge of the pier with their mom Tina.



Windsor and Grey Aubuchonv encounter a living history lesson with Paul Revere, portrayed by Michael Lepage.



Isabelle Cadene with Squirrelfish Designs shows off her work.

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Mike Rowsey with his son Luke eating a Hoodsie cup.

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PIER 5 ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Advocate for Raptors Are The Solution Gary Menin Sr brings awareness to alternatives from poison for rodent control.



Lucas Munson with his mom Sarah Wakeman.



Shamalia Lloyd and Natalia Bayona of the Education Team for the Mystic River Watershed Association.



Dan Kovacevic and Larry Stevens from the Bunker Hill Monument Association



Mira and Katie Butler.



Pier 5 is truly a Charlestown treasure waiting to be realized.



Rona Zlokower reads to her daughter Liza and grandkids Rye and Della Perry El Toro And Friends Tacos Tuesday.

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NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will hosted the 2024 Neighborhood Coffee Hour Series in partnership with Dunkin' on Wednesday, April 24 at the Training Field (Winthrop Square) 55 Winthrop Street in Charlestown.

PHOTOS COURTESY MAYOR'S OFFICE ISABEL LEON



Massachusetts House passes bill authorizing Chapter 90 funding

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill that includes \$200 million for the state's Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs, as well as \$175 million for specific programs. The bill also appropriates \$25 million for the rural roads program established in last year's Chapter 90 legislation, which provides funding to rural communities in addition to the standard Chapter 90 distribution.

"Providing funding for critical infrastructure projects through investments in the Commonwealth's public transportation, roads, and bridges is one of the

most important responsibilities that we have as members of the Legislature," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "I'm proud of the support for regional infrastructure that this legislation provides, and of the funding that it allocates for the purchasing of electric vehicles by transit authorities. I want to thank Chairman Straus and my colleagues in the House, for prioritizing this vital legislation."

"Through this bill, the House provides cities and towns funding to maintain bridges and roads while advancing transportation accessibility and electric vehicle acquisition," said Representative Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston). "I look forward to seeing the

City of Boston use these dollars to address our transportation network."

"The Legislature continues to be responsive to the transportation needs of our towns and cities," said Representative Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation. "This legislation demonstrates a commitment to funding for local transportation projects with again, our new program especially for funding to rural towns. I am pleased to support this important piece of legislation which provides more tools for towns to tackle their project backlog in time for the new fiscal year starting in July."

This legislation authorizes \$150 million in programs that will sup-

port various transportation-related projects. This includes \$25 million for each of the following:

- Municipal Pavement Program, which focuses on the improvement of municipally owned state numbered routes

- Municipal Small Bridge Program, which provides financial support to cities and towns for small bridge replacement, preservation, and rehabilitation projects

- Complete Streets Funding Program, which provides technical assistance and construction funding to municipalities for streets that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes such as walking, biking, transit, and vehicles

- Municipal Bus Enhancement Program, which provides grant funding to towns to build out infrastructure related to mass tran-

sit by bus, such as bus shelters, curb reconfiguration, bus lanes, and signal prioritization

- Mass Transit Access Grant Program, which provides grants to municipalities for design and construction for improvements to access commuter rail stations or other mass transit stations, such as parking lots, drop-off and pick-up zones, bike storage infrastructure, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure

- Municipal/RTA EV Grant Program, which provides grants to Regional Transit Authorities and municipalities for the purchase of electric vehicles and related charging equipment

Having passed the House of Representatives 155-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for their consideration.

NEWS BRIEFS

RYAN "DUCE" MORRISSEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Friends of Ryan "Duce" Morrissey Scholarship Fund committee is pleased to announce that 2024 will be their 10th year of providing scholarships. This year, a total of \$35,000 will be awarded. Scholarships in the amounts of \$10,000 each will be awarded to two college freshmen, \$3,000 each to three college upperclassmen and \$1,500 each to four high school students. We will now have provided more than \$175,000 to deserving students.

While providing scholarships for 10 years is remarkable, it is bittersweet as it also marks 10 years without Ryan. Ryan or "Duce" to most of the town (but not Grandma Mary!) was his own kind of remarkable. Like many kids in Charlestown, he played sports, went to The Club and hung out with his friends. He was well-liked by his friends but was also well-liked by so many adults. His friends' parents, Club staff, local business owners, teachers, coaches have all remarked on what a great kid Ryan was. They speak of his respectfulness and thoughtfulness but also of his sense of humor and on occasion, his unique dance moves.

While we can only wonder what path Ryan's life would have taken had it not been cut short, we continue on our journey to help others learn and grow by offering scholarships. With the cost of education continuing to increase, we are glad to help reduce some

of the financial burden incurred by students furthering their education.

We will be honoring this year's recipients with a night of dining, entertainment and memories at our annual Awards Presentation Night on Saturday June 1, 2024 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. We look forward to seeing old and new friends at this joyous evening. For ticket information, please visit www.ryanmorrisesyscholarship.com or email ryanmorrisesyscholarship@gmail.com.

NEW EXHIBITION OPENING FRIDAY MAY 3 AT THE STOVEFACTORY GALLERY

"Inspired by the Sea" - works by Deidre Tao will open with a reception on May 3 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Visit taofineart.com for a peek at Deidre's work.

The StoveFactory Gallery is located at 523 Medford Street, during events there is free parking in the lot at 511 Medford, in slots marked 511.

Visit artistsgroupofcharlestown.com for additional information.

CHARLESTOWN BASED ARTIST JOE CARUSO AT THE ART COMPLEX MUSEUM IN DUXBURY

"DIG" opens at the Art Complex Museum on May 12, 2024



Shown: Joe Caruso, Prosciutta, 2023 Clay, glaze, acrylic, and epoxy

and features artists: Joe Caruso, Jennifer Liston Munson, Christine Palmadessi and Marsha Odabashian. Joe Caruso is a Charlestown resident and a founding member of the Artist Group of Charlestown Gallery and Studios

Dig recalls traditions, events, and customs across a range of cultures. It values, preserves, and calls attention to what came before as we cope with the present and prepare for the future.

The opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 12 from 1-4 p.m. The exhibition will continue until August 11, 2024. The Art Complex Museum is located at 189 Alden Street in Duxbury. Admission to the exhibition is free. For more information, see the museum's website www.artcomplex.org.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction look-ahead for the North Washington Street Bridge through May 11 is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Removal of temporary Paul Revere Park abutment

- Cofferdam installation

Work Hours

- Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Saturday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Travel Tips

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

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

The Tudor Wharf Walkway (under the bridge next to the water in Paul Revere Park) will be intermittently closed for safety during construction operations,

with access provided via the Water Street underpass. The Boston Harborwalk under the bridge and eastern/harborside bridge sidewalk remain closed until rebuilt.

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

- OTHER EVENTS: May 10, at 7 p.m.

How can I find more information?

Stay up-to-date and informed by following @MassDOT on X, formerly known as Twitter, and Mass 511 for real-time updates, visiting the project website, or emailing us with any questions.

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

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

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

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**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION –HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 119537**

Two Public Informational Meetings will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project in Somerville and Charlestown.

WHERE:

**Charlestown Knights of Columbus
545 Medford Street
Charlestown, MA 02129**

WHEN:

Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM

WHERE:

**Somerville Public Library - Central Branch
79 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143**

WHEN:

Monday, May 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public an overview of upcoming construction activities on the Maffa Way/Mystic Avenue Bridge Superstructure Replacements project. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: This project consists of replacing the two deteriorated bridge superstructures of the Maffa Way and Mystic Avenue bridges over the MBTA Orange Line and Commuter Rail lines in Boston and Somerville. This project is set to improve public safety, pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodations by addressing substandard bridge conditions. The project will be integrated with adjacent projects, such as Assembly Square, Rutherford Avenue, and the One Mystic development.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE
CHIEF ENGINEER

OUTDATED (from pg. 1)

in ensuring that our values, as a Commonwealth, are also reflected in statute," said Representative Jay D. Livingstone (D-Boston), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. "As legislators, it is our job to help make sure that people with intellectual or developmental disabilities feel included, accepted and embraced for who they are, and this is an important step in doing so. I am appreciative of all those who have worked on this effort before me who helped make this possible. I'd also like to thank the Speaker, Chairman Michlewitz, Chairman Honan, and all of my colleagues in the House for their support on this important issue."

The Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities heard from many advocacy organizations in the disability community in support of the bill and all changes were vetted with relevant agencies, including Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Executive Office of Education, and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

"Today with the passage of this legislation the Commonwealth is taking a critical step towards fostering inclusivity and upholding our long-held principles of dignity and respect for all who call the Commonwealth home," said Representative Michael J. Finn (D-West Springfield), a lead sponsor of the bill. "We can all celebrate that it is long past time for the Commonwealth to update its General Laws, ensuring that no individual is subjected to negative and harmful language"

"Today the House of Representatives takes a transformational step towards a more inclusive Commonwealth," said Representative Sean Garballey (D-Arlington), a lead sponsor of the bill.

"By removing outdated words like 'handicapped', 'disabled', and the 'R Word' from MA General laws, we make a collective statement that Massachusetts is a place for all."

Having passed the House of Representatives, the bills now go to the Senate for their consideration.

Statements of Support:

The Arc of Massachusetts:

"The Arc of Massachusetts is grateful for the passage of the Archaic Language Bill. This legislation has been a priority to The Arc and we appreciate the efforts made by the sponsors of the bill and our legislative champions at the MA State House. Thank you to the past and present Chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. Special recognition to the self-advocates who led the way and never gave up. Words hold power! The language people use is important and influences thoughts and attitudes about people and their capabilities. The use of inappropriate language in society and in our Massachusetts General Law perpetuates negative stereotypes about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This legislation will not just create legal change but also social change. The Arc strongly supports the passage of this bill as a sign that Massachusetts is listening and will support people with IDD by using thoughtful and positive language in the laws."

Barbara L'Italien, Executive Director of the Disability Law Center:

"Removing archaic language in legislation plays an important role in reducing social stigma and ensuring that state agencies and courts view people with disabilities as entitled to full, equal, and integrated lives in the community."



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Shuttle buses will now replace Red Line from Park Street to JFK/UMass on May 2-10

The MBTA is today announcing an update to the upcoming Red Line service change that begins next week. Previously scheduled to begin on May 1, the Red Line will now be suspended daily between Park Street and JFK/UMass stations from May 2-10. In addition to that, from May 2-9, evening Red Line trains will not operate between Park Street and Ashmont stations from approximately 8:30 PM through the end of service every day. Shuttle buses will instead operate to accommodate riders. This update is to accommodate the two-day extension of Track Improvement Program work currently taking place on the Blue Line.

The MBTA is also announcing an update to the planned weekend Red Line service change on May 11-12. Red Line service will be replaced with free and accessible shuttle buses between JFK/UMass and North Quincy (instead of the previously announced locations of Broadway to Braintree) during the weekend of May 11-12 to accomplish work as part of the Dorchester Avenue Bridge Replacement Project and the Track Improvement Program.

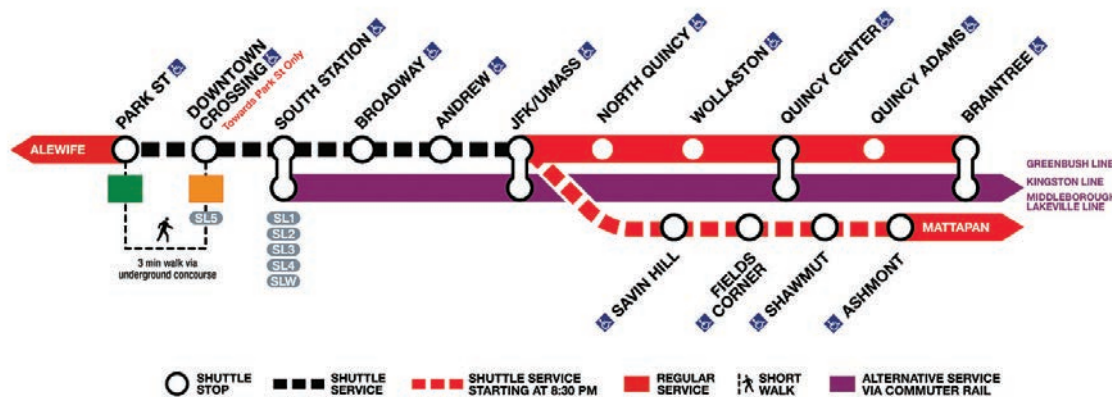
As previously announced, the Red Line service change beginning next week is in place as part of the MBTA's Track Improvement

Program. The Track Improvement Program will replace tracks and ties to alleviate speed restrictions along the line while crews maximize the outage by performing signal work and station amenity upgrades, including new lighting, painting, tiling, power washing, and more. Riders can learn more at mbta.com/TrackProgram.

Free and accessible shuttle buses will make all stops between stations. There will be free fares at Park Street and JFK/UMass stations with the fare gates open. The Commuter Rail will be fare free between Braintree, Quincy Center, JFK/UMass, and South Station. Regular fares should be purchased beyond Braintree. A page with dedicated information for riders is available at mbta.com/RedLine with additional information available at mbta.com/alerts.

The important work accomplished during this Red Line service suspension means riders will experience a more reliable trip with fewer unplanned service disruptions related to older tracks, older infrastructure, signal issues, or power problems. Riders will also be provided with a safer ride as a result of this state of good repair work.

The MBTA understands how these service changes affect riders' daily travels during this period,



but we are committed to improving your travels long term with more reliable, timely, and safe service. We thank riders for their patience as we deliver this important work and for continuing to ride our system.

More information is also available through in-station signage and public announcements. Transit Ambassadors and MBTA staff will be available on-site to offer information and assistance during these service changes. Riders are encouraged to subscribe to T-Alerts or to follow the MBTA on X (the site formerly known as Twitter) @MBTA for up-to-date service information.

For more information, please visit mbta.com/TrackProgram.

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DIDOMENICO MEETS WITH CONSTITUENTS DURING STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY

Special to the Independent

The State House recently hosted their annual Student Government Day with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) where high school students from across Massachusetts came to the building for a day of education and debating real legislation. Senator Sal DiDomenico was able to watch some of the mock sessions in the Senate Chamber and spent time with students from his district to give them a tour of the building and his office.

“It was a pleasure to show students from my district around different parts of the Senate Chamber and watch them engage in debate with their peers on timely issues that I am working on like college affordability and educator diversity,” said Senator Sal DiDomenico. “I want to thank Anne Ziaja, my team, State House staff, and DESE staff for helping organize this fantastic event and inspiring a new generation of young people to get involved in government and make our state a better place for everyone.”

Student Government Day is a state mandated program established in 1947, empowering students from public and private high schools across the commonwealth

with the opportunity to learn, observe, and dive into the process of state government. The interactive and educational program is coordinated by the Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education and open to high school juniors and seniors.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with students in the Senate Chamber.



Senator Sal DiDomenico with students and teachers on the Senate Balcony.




Join Us!
Sprouts Pollinator Garden
Open House
 Monday May 6, 4pm-6pm
 *Rain date: Thursday May 9th 4pm-6pm
 CharlesNewtown Harborwalk
 Near the Soccer/Softball field, Charlestown, MA 02129

Food provided and children welcome!
Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden

Harvest on Vine
Emergency Food Pantry

Monthly Food Distributions take place on the second Saturday at 10a.m. and the last Tuesday at 2p.m.

Volunteer to help at the Food Pantry
 Contact Director, Tom MacDonald at 617-990-7314



Art Gallery Exhibition

Inspired by the Sea:
 Works by Deidre Tao

Opening Reception
 May 3, 5-7:30 pm

Exhibition
 May 3 - 11, 2024

StoveFactory Gallery
 Charlestown, Massachusetts

taofineart.com
 Windswept © Deidre Tao