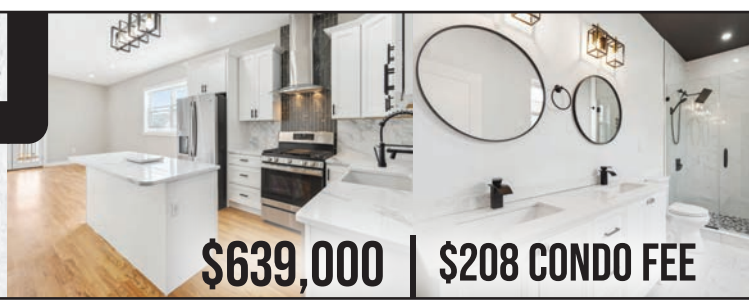


NEW CONSTRUCTION!

OPEN HOUSE SAT. + SUN.
SEPTEMBER 14 + 15
2:00-3:30PM



\$639,000 | \$208 CONDO FEE

7 BELLINGHAM AVE. UNIT 3A, EVERETT
2 BEDS, 2 FULL BATHS, PARKING, STORAGE,
PRIVATE BALCONY, DESIGNER FINISHES,
MASTER SUITE W/ WALK-IN CLOSET



Jeff@jeffreybowen.com 781-201-9488

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



FREE

CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

CHARLESTOWN SPROUTS COMMUNITY GARDEN HOLDS ANNUAL CELEBRATION



Shown (above) members of the Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden pose for a picture. Right, a close look at the progress of the garden. See Pages 5-8 for more photos.



DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden celebrated its "rebirth" after some lengthy renovations ongoing since 2020.

City announces ARPA funding to benefit first-time homebuyers and small businesses

Special to the Times

Mayor Michelle Wu joined members of the Boston City Council, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), and the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEOI), to announce the allocation of a \$7 million investment of American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) funding to bolster Boston's neighborhoods in three ways: by (1) helping first time home buyers with down payment assistance, (2) acquiring of market-rate properties to grow affordable housing stock, and (3) supporting small businesses, including through the City's SPACE Grant Program. Mayor Wu today filed an order with the Boston City Council to

allocate the \$7 million of ARPA funding. Of the total \$558.7 million awarded to Boston since 2021, this \$7 million represents the remaining amount for the City to allocate toward eligible recovery projects. These investments in affordable housing and local busi-

(ARPA Pg. 3)

Planning Department hosts meeting on Chain Forge Building

By Michael Coughlin Jr.

On Tuesday, the city's Planning Department welcomed residents to a meeting to gather ideas for rehabilitating the Chain Forge building, also known as Building 105, in the Navy Yard.

According to Tuesday's presentation, the historic building opened in the Navy Yard in 1904 and provided almost all of the chains the United States Navy used through World War II before it was transferred to the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1975.

In more recent memory, the Chain Forge building was set to be redeveloped into a hotel and include several other amenities.

However, in January, the Planning Department (then known as the Boston Planning & Development Agency) notified the community that the project would not proceed because the redeveloper defaulted on its ground lease.

Now, the process of getting another project going at the historical site is underway. Specifically, the Chain Forge building is undergoing a disposition process in which the Planning Department will take feedback from the community to develop a draft request for proposals (RFP).

After a draft RFP is developed, it will be reviewed, and a final

(CHAIN FORGE Pg. 4)

CNC MEETING DATES

CNC Soccer Stadium Committee Meeting,
Thursday, September 26, 2024

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Soccer Stadium Committee will hold its first in-person public meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. Bring your questions and concerns or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com.

CNC Basic Services Committee Meeting,
Monday, September 30, 2024

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council's Basic Services Committee will hold an in-person, public meeting on Monday, September 30, from 7-9 PM at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. A presentation by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission will be followed by an opportunity for the committee and community to ask questions about ongoing work in the neighborhood.

CNC Meeting, Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 7 PM.

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold an in-person, public meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, from 7-9 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 545 Medford Street, Charlestown. A presentation by Bunker Hill 250 will be followed by committee updates. Bring your questions and neighborhood concerns to the meeting or email us at cnc02129@gmail.com. Check CNC02129.org for calendar and updates.

EDITORIAL

NEWS BRIEFS

TOO MANY GUNS = TOO MANY SHOOTINGS

The spectre of yet another lone-wolf gunman attempting another assassination of Donald Trump is shocking, but not surprising.

Up until the past 50 years, assassinations of public figures in America were carried out by individuals with a political agenda -- Abraham Lincoln (John Wilkes Booth), William McKinley (by an avowed political anarchist), Huey Long (by the relative of a political rival), John F. Kennedy (by Lee Harvey Oswald, although his exact motive has never been fully figured out), Robert F. Kennedy (Sirhan Sirhan), and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (James Earl Ray).

The exception was President James Garfield's assassin, who was suffering from mental health issues. However, the profiles of would-be assassins of public figures has changed since the 1960s. In 1972, the would-be assassin of former Alabama Governor George Wallace when he was running for president was Arthur Bremer, an individual with a long history of mental illness.

Since then, almost all of the assassins of famous figures -- Pres. Gerald's Ford would-be assassin (Lynette "Squeaky" Fromm), John Lennon's assassin (Mark David Chapman), Pres. Reagan's would-be assassin (John Hinckley Jr.), and Gabby Giffords's would-be assassin (Jared Lee Loughner) -- shared one thing in common: They were disturbed individuals with a history of mental illness.

Our federal intelligence agencies have become pretty good at detecting organized threats from those who would do harm to our nation's leaders since the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers in the 1960s.

But as both of the assassination attempts on Donald Trump have shown, the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect and prevent lone-wolf individuals, who have no motive other than to gain infamy (similar to those who commit school and other mass shootings), is not so great.

In addition, most of these shooters, though suffering from mental health issues, are not far enough along on the spectrum so as to trigger the so-called red flag laws that would prevent them from either purchasing a gun or having their guns taken away.

The sole goal of these individuals is to achieve the prediction that Andy Warhol popularized in 1968: "In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes."

Thus, we have in our country a volatile mix of angry and disturbed individuals who have all-too-easy access to high-powered firearms, a situation that is unique among the industrial nations of the world. And as long as we have that mix of individuals with mental health issues and the availability of military-grade weapons, incidents from political assassinations to mass shootings will continue in our country's never-ending death spiral with no end in sight.

HOW CAN A STATE POLICE TRAINEE DIE IN A BOXING RING?

The death last week of 25 year-old Mass. State Police (MSP) Trainee Enrique Delgado-Garcia in a boxing ring during a "training exercise" is, in a word, unfathomable.

Mr. Delgado-Garcia was less than one month away from graduating and achieving his dream of serving as a Mass. State Trooper.

But Mr. Delgado-Garcia's life was brutally cut short when he literally was beaten to death while training at the State Police Academy. MSP officials, as usual, are remaining tight-lipped about exactly what happened -- which in itself speaks volumes about the culpability of whoever was in charge of this "training" exercise.

We hope that a complete and thorough investigation will be conducted that not only will hold those responsible fully accountable, but that also will ensure that this sort of brutal and senseless sort of "training" never will be used in the future at our State Police Academy.

GARDENS FOR CHARLESTOWN PROUDLY PRESENTS OKTOBERFEST!

Gather your friends and family, and join us for Oktoberfest, a benefit for Gardens for Charlestown! The event will be held on Saturday, September 28th from 3pm-8pm.

Local Winter Hill Brewery will be onsite serving beer on tap (wine and non-alcoholic options offered) along with LIVE music and a traditional German playlist. There will be outdoor games and activities for all ages including corn hole. Additionally, our gardeners best will be on display and we need your votes to decide who will win this year's Blue Ribbon Awards in the categories of best Dahlia, Tomato, and Squash! There will also be the opportunity to take a chance on several exciting raffle prizes. Don't miss this unique day of Fall fun in one of the most picturesque spots in Charlestown! We'll see you in the Garden.

Tickets to attend are \$50 which includes a German inspired meal, drinks, and entertainment, plus kids under 12 eat free! To purchase tickets and for more details please use the QR code attached here or

go to gardensforcharlestown.org/events.

All proceeds benefit Gardens for Charlestown, a local 501(c)(3) dedicated to green space preservation, community gathering, and education.

Gardens for Charlestown is conveniently located at the intersection of Main and Bunker Hill Streets, two blocks from the Sullivan Square T-Station. There is free street parking available, as well as MBTA bus service (#92 or #93) from Haymarket Station directly to the garden.

USS CONSTITUTION TO GO UNDERWAY FOR 2024 CNO CHIEF HERITAGE WEEKS

USS Constitution is scheduled to get underway for the 2024 Chief of Naval Operations' Chief Petty Officer Heritage Training Weeks on Friday, September 20, at 10 a.m.

The ship will remain closed following the underway.

USS Constitution Sailors, alongside 120 Sailors selected for promotion to chief petty officer, will sail in Boston Harbor. During Chief Petty Officer Heritage Weeks, the crew of USS Constitution will train over

220 newly selected chief petty officers in the same skills as 19th-century Sailors, including gun drills, pike drills, sailing, and musket drills, to foster meaningful leadership development.

For over 20 years, select Sailors advancing to chief petty officer have come to USS Constitution to spend a week living aboard "Old Ironsides," fully immersed in naval heritage.

A 21-gun salute will be fired, which can be viewed from Fort Independence on Castle Island at approximately 11:30 a.m. Additionally, USS Constitution will fire a 17-gun salute as she passes the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where she was built and launched on October 21, 1797.

The cruise will be visible from the Boston Harborwalk, Castle Island, and the Charlestown Navy Yard.

USS Constitution is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for public visitation.

USS Constitution is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's Ship of State. She played a crucial role in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, actively defending sea lanes from 1797 to 1855.

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

Text or attachments emailed to editor@reverejournal.com are preferred.



CHARLESTOWN
PATRIOT-BRIDGE

THE CHARLESTOWN PATRIOT-BRIDGE,

PHONE: 781.485.0588 © 2008 INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER GROUP.
EMAIL: editor@charlestownbridge.com • WEB SITE: www.charlestownbridge.com

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

PRESIDENT - STEPHEN QUIGLEY - EDITOR@CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM
MARKETING DIRECTOR - DEBRA DIGREGORIO - DEB@REVEREJOURNAL.COM

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL

781-485-0588

ARPA (from pg. 1)

ness build on Mayor Wu’s commitment to making Boston a home for everyone.

“This \$7 million investment prioritizes Boston’s families by building generational wealth through homeownership opportunities and helping our local entrepreneurs make their small business dreams become a reality,” said Mayor Michelle Wu. “In Boston, we have used ARPA funds to build innovative new programs that target key issues in our city such as housing, and we’re committed to using these remaining federal dollars to continue these successful initiatives. Congrats to Keanna Rice on her new home through the BHA First Home Program, and all of our city’s first time home buyers.”

“When we talk about investing in people and in our neighborhoods, this is it. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds have allowed the Mayor and the Boston City Council to make transformative investments in housing, small businesses, green energy in affordable housing, culture and the arts, and support for vulnerable populations,” said Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune. “This \$7 million is a continuation of that work by further investing in affordable homeownership opportunities and supporting our small business owners. I am proud that the Council and the Mayor continue to collaborate to make sure these funds are helping us build a more prosperous and just city post-pandemic.”

“As Chair of Boston City Council’s Committee on COVID-19 Recovery, I’m proud of our investments in support of additional investments in housing affordability and small business,” said City Councilor Sharon Durkan. “These \$7M in investments continue Boston’s track record in leading the way in utilizing these once-in-a-generation resources to make transformative and sustainable investments to support the recovery and growth of our city – and because of the way we are continuing to steward these resources, Boston’s recovery has made our communities more stable and vibrant.”

Mayor Wu has allocated \$3 million to the BHA First Home Program, to continue serving BHA families with down payment assistance through 2026. This funding will enable an estimated additional 57 BHA families to purchase homes in Boston. Through this program, the City provides eligible BHA families with enhanced down payment assistance of \$75,000 towards the purchase of a home located in Boston and is available to all BHA residents who purchase a home in the city.

The BHA First Home Program launched in November 2022 with a \$2 million investment from the city and has been an unprecedented success in helping BHA families become homeowners. To date it has helped over 50 BHA residents buy homes in Boston. This additional funding is critical in affording BHA tenants the opportunity to build wealth through homeownership. The demand for this program is high, and today’s announcement would enable the program to continue for two more years and double the number of families becoming homebuyers in the city of Boston.

“The First Home Program is a representation of everything we hope to achieve at the Boston Housing Authority, and the Mayor’s investment has allowed this program and BHA families to flourish beyond our wildest expectations,” said BHA Administrator Kenzie Bok. “This program has already enabled more than 50 BHA families to achieve homeownership and self sufficiency, establishing the intergenerational wealth that can lift families out of poverty and help close Boston’s racial wealth gap. We are thrilled that the Mayor and City Councilors support doubling down on this successful program to help more of our families.”

“Buying a home has always been a goal for me and my family, having a home to call my own and securing generational wealth for the future. No matter your current financial status, buying a house in today’s market is extremely difficult and costly, but this program gave me leverage,” said BHA First

Home Program participant Keanna Rice. “As I stand in my new home, I am filled with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. I look forward to creating lasting memories in this space, building equity for my future, and establishing roots.”

An additional \$3 million of this ARPA funding will go to further address the City’s need to prevent displacement and increase affordable housing opportunities through MOH’s Acquisition Opportunity Program. This program supports the acquisition of market-rate buildings by responsible, mission-oriented developers to stabilize tenancies and create long-term income restricted housing for low- and moderate-income renters. This new funding allocation will leverage approximately \$9 million of private financing to support the acquisition of additional apartments buildings and stabilize the tenancies of households at risk of displacement.

The Acquisition Opportunity Program (AOP) provides funding to nonprofit and for-profit organizations to acquire occupied, rental properties that are typically renting at below market rates. The residents of these properties are at risk of displacement if the property

is sold and the units are then converted to condominiums or they are maintained as rental properties and the rent is increased. The City’s AOP has helped hundreds of properties remain affordable in almost every neighborhood of the City; from Chinatown to Mattapan, preventing displacement and promoting neighborhood stability.

“The City’s Acquisition Opportunity Program allows organizations to acquire occupied residential buildings removing them from the speculative market. These acquisitions provide tenant stability and increase the City’s inventory of income restricted homes,” said Chief of Housing Sheila A. Dillon. “The additional investment of ARPA funds will allow us to continue and expand the work of protecting and preserving affordable housing in the City, allowing residents to live and thrive in their communities.”

Small businesses, especially those industries most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, will receive \$1 million of this ARPA investment. The funding will support the City’s SPACE Grant Program, providing grants to business owners seeking to occupy vacant storefronts. The City will soon announce the third and

final round of the SPACE Grant program. In the first two rounds, the City helped 61 small businesses either open their first brick and mortar location or expand using \$7.5 million in funding.

“Thanks to the leadership of the Biden Harris Administration and our delegation in Congress, Mayor Wu and our team have been able to invest millions of dollars in Boston’s small businesses, helping to build wealth and establish vibrancy across all of our neighborhoods,” said Segun Idowu, Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. “Our team is grateful to Mayor Wu and the City Council for further investments in this transformative program, which has created new jobs and given dreams the space to grow.”

The SPACE Grant Program has been a key part of the city’s downtown recovery and support for local entrepreneurs throughout Boston’s neighborhoods. Businesses in the program have created nearly 600 new jobs, and a quarter of the grantees are now open and operating in the city, with the rest signing leases or in lease negotiations. This funding will help continue the success of this program, with an emphasis on filling vacant storefronts in Downtown Boston.

Friends of City Square Park Annual Meeting

Special Guest Speaker, Ian Coss, Host and producer of “The Big Dig”, a podcast from GBH News.

**October 29th 6:30-8:00p.m.
RSM - 80 City Square 02129
(Left under the arch)**

**Light refreshments served
RSVP: info@friendsofcitysquarepark.org**

OBITUARIES

All obituaries and death notices will be at a cost of \$150.00 per paper.

Includes photo.No word Limit.

Please send to

obits@reverejournal.com

or call 781-485-0588

NEMPAC announces new hires and program expansion into the Charlestown Working Theater

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) announces new hires and program expansion into the Charlestown Working Theater (CWT) as part of its renewed commitment to finding performance space in Boston. The recent expansion included improvements to the building located at 442 Bunker Hill Street in Charlestown, Mass., investments in new equipment and instruments to support expanded arts programs, and the hiring of 11 new faculty members.

New classes and group lessons at the theater will launch this fall, including group keyboard for youth, dance and movement classes, and private music instruction in a variety of instruments, including guitar, percussion, saxophone, voice, and more. NEMPAC will work with FalceP Pianos to move a new piano into the theater to support performances, concerts, and community events like sing-

alongs, movie nights, and outreach performances.

The partnership between NEMPAC and CWT began nine years ago with NEMPAC's desire to make high-quality arts programming more accessible to residents and community members of Charlestown and surrounding areas. There was a voiced need for more after-school enrichment opportunities for children and creative outlets, like musical theater, that have been proven to support youth development.

KrisNn Johnson, founder and Executive Director of the Charlestown Working Theater, says, "The Charlestown Working Theater is delighted to expand the scope of our long-term partnership with NEMPAC. Since 2015, our organizations have worked together to ensure accessible arts education and production opportunities for residents of Charlestown, the North End, Greater Boston and

beyond. This dynamic expansion will support and grow a thriving arts community that is open and welcoming to all."

To date, NEMPAC and CWT have collaborated on their annual Holiday Youth Musical, performing renditions of musicals like Elf, Jr, A Christmas Carol, Twelfth Night, and The Nutcracker and the Mouse King, which casts between 35 to 40 children of all abilities in each annual production.

NEMPAC also hosts private music instruction for all ages across multiple instruments with their expert faculty.

NEMPAC currently serves over 1,500 students per week through its community music school, and this year, it plans to host over 42 public community events and performances. Forty-two percent of students at NEMPAC receive free or discounted tuition to participate in high-quality arts programming that includes music lessons,

music theater performance-based programs, youth dance and movement classes, and early childhood music and movement.

"We are excited to deepen our roots in the Charlestown neighborhood and continue building our partnership with the Working Theater. We heard the need from community members over the past year for more programming - and we look forward to fulfilling this need in the future and in this creative, welcoming space that CWT has supported for so many years," said Sherri Snow, Executive Director of NEMPAC.

NEMPAC will maintain its existing headquarters in the North End of Boston at 50 Tileston Street and several other locations, including Prado Studios and 9 Hull Street. The organization will also continue to partner with several local Boston Public Schools in the City of Boston, including the Eliot School, Warren Prescoa School,

Harvard Kent School, Umana School, and its newest partner, The Hurley School.

This expansion was made possible thanks to support from the Charlestown Community Impact Fund, the NEMPAC Annual Fund Donors, the Charlestown Working Theater, and the Charlestown Mothers Association.

North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) is a 501(c)(3) community music school and performing arts center empowering greater-Boston artists of all ages and abilities. Fueled by the belief that the arts are an expression of our shared humanity, NEMPAC's mission is to enrich lives through exceptional, accessible music education and performing arts programs that are as vibrant, inclusive, and diverse as our local communities.

CHAIN FORGE (from pg. 1)

RFP will be created and eventually released for developers to view and submit proposals. If there are submissions, those will be reviewed, and a proposal will be chosen, and eventually, a developer will receive tentative and then final designation.

It should be noted that the process outlined above includes extensive community involvement, review, and input.

"Our goal is to work with the community every step of the way and deliver a more affordable, equitable, and resilient use to Boston," said Yoon Cha, a Real Estate Development Officer at the Planning Department.

As part of the meeting, Cha provided a site overview, discussed the challenges of rehabilitating the building, and analyzed the potential rehabilitation options with pros and cons before welcoming attendees to offer their ideas.

Regarding the site overview, Cha informed attendees that the building cannot add on-site public parking because of its historical designation and how it is situated. However, she did note that the building has parking allocated in a nearby garage.

Cha also emphasized the need for ground-floor activation and retail in the Navy Yard and the number of available opportunities, considering the proximity to several industrial uses.

Moreover, the property's zoning prioritizes ground-floor activation. Cha also said the development

would have to preserve the historically significant portions of the building.

Other important zoning information includes that ground-floor uses may be restricted due to the building's location in a flood plain and that a public use is recommended for the rehabilitation.

After providing a brief overview of the site, Cha outlined some of its challenges, one of which is historic preservation.

"As a nationally registered historic monument, the building has to retain its historical character. Which might make it difficult to add floors or windows to achieve the density or square footage needed to adapt the building into new uses," said Cha.

While historic preservation presents a challenge, there is a silver lining in the potential use of historical tax credits. It should be noted that the project previously slated to be built received these tax credits from the state.

"We're pretty optimistic that a new developer will be able to apply for the same," said Cha.

Another challenge is flood resiliency. Specifically, the building is in a flood hazard area, so the ground floor has to be raised, depending on the use. For example, a residential use might lose up to a floor of units because of this.

Finally, environmental remediation is a hurdle at the site. Several contaminants, such as asbestos and PCBs, have been present.

"Throughout the years, there

have been significant clean-up efforts, but our capital construction team anticipates there's still a lot more work yet to be done," said Cha.

To help with the clean-up effort, the Planning Department is applying for the Federal Brownfields Remediation Grant and has earmarked funds to stabilize the building structurally.

Moving toward the analysis portion of the presentation, Cha noted that while there were issues getting a project built in the past, things are different now for a few reasons.

The first reason she mentioned was market conditions. "Many of the business sectors in Boston are showing really strong recovery after Covid, whether it's hospitality, retail, and housing. Lab and office might be an exception, but overall, the fundamentals have been very strong," said Cha.

She also stated that the Chain Forge building offers an opportunity to enter a real estate market in Boston that has a high barrier to entry.

Another reason mentioned as to how the rehabilitation could be more viable than it has been in the past is financial leverage.

"Given the historical and cultural significance of the Chain Forge and the exceptional challenges that lie ahead, we're actively looking for ways to make the project more financially viable," said Cha.

She reiterated the points about

applying for the Federal Brownfields Remediation Grant and putting funds toward structural stabilization but also indicated the Planning Department is looking for other grant opportunities.

Further, during the analysis, Cha offered some pros and cons for different uses that could be employed at the building.

A hotel would offer public use, but the pool of hotel developers and operators is small. Commercial use could provide the community with things they need, like a grocery store, but there are questions about whether there is enough demand and traffic for that type of use.

While residential uses are needed in the city, the site lacks parking, has limited access to public transit, and could be affected by the aforementioned challenge with the flood hazard area.

Finally, an institutional use could attract several different establishments, like museums or art venues, but there needs to be interest and funding.

Following the presentation, several attendees voiced their opinions regarding what they wanted to see at the site. Ideas ranged from affordable grocery stores and restaurants to art venues, a recreational facility, or simply a place residents could use as a place to gather.

As the discussion continued, it became clear that one of the prevailing ideas was to have a mix of uses at the site.

"Certainly, I think all of us are envisioning mixed-use on the site... so even if there's a cultural use, maybe there's some synergy we could do with food options, maybe small retail or other amenities, so that definitely a possibility here," said Cha.

Ultimately, attendees shared many ideas during the meeting, and the Planning Department wants to hear from residents. To provide input on the Chain Forge rehabilitation process, email Yoon.Cha@boston.gov.

The Planning Department hopes to have another meeting similar to Tuesday's and another to review a draft RFP before the end of the year so that a new RFP can be released in the first quarter of 2025.

There are also plans for a meeting in mid-October to review the Federal Brownfields Remediation Grant application.

To learn more about this process and view a recording and the presentation from this meeting when they are posted, visit <https://bit.ly/ChainForge>.

"We very much want this to be an open and collaborative process, and we are seeking your feedback as Charlestown residents on the neighborhood's priorities, your thoughts on the feasibility of different uses, considerations for design and preservation, and any other creative suggestions you might have," said Cha.

CHARLESTOWN SPROUTS COMMUNITY GARDEN HOLDS ANNUAL CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS

The Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden celebrated its "rebirth" after some lengthy renovations ongoing since 2020. Gardeners from many cultures find themselves sharing this community space and learning about new plants as well as each other.



A freshly watered green pepper.



Susan Madden and her granddaughter Rosie Popp collect flowers to bring to Rosie's sister Abby and her nature loom.



Rochell Williams harvested flowers from her garden plot.



Rochell Williams harvested flowers from her garden plot.



Artem points out some tomatoes to his son Philip.



Abby Popp contributes some harvested flowers to a nature loom.



A welcome guest to the Charlestown Sprouts Community Garden was a pollinating bee visiting the zinnias.



Veronica Pierrefarmer may have been holding an umbrella but she was the one making it rain to water the okra and tomatoes in her garden plot.

See Pages 6-8 for more photos.

CHARLESTOWN SPROUTS COMMUNITY GARDEN HOLDS ANNUAL CELEBRATION

DEREK KOUYOUMJIAN PHOTOS



Jenny with her unicorn daughter Yelialny.



Anne Ribbins with granddaughter Deanie talk with Angela Hartt from The Puppeteers Cooperative in a bird puppet costume.



A sunflower takes in the sun.



Heather Pruiksma with Grow Native Massachusetts.



Marissa Zampino with Mystic River Watershed Association gives some young garden fans information about the river next to them.

**TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL
781-485-0588**

 **SCARS IN HEAVEN**

CHARLESTOWN 16TH ANNUAL

Candlelight Vigil

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024
6:30 PM AT HAYES SQ. CHARLESTOWN
(RIGHT OUTSIDE OF ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH)

THIS VIGIL IS TO HONOR THOSE WE HAVE LOST TO ADDICTION AND OVERDOSE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR A LOVED ONE, PLEASE EMAIL A PHOTO WITH FIRST AND LAST NAME TO SLUNDIN@CHAPTERSRECOVERYCENTER.COM








\$50
ticket

9.28.24
3-8 PM

OKTOBERFEST

FEATURING
WINTER HILL BREWING




DiDomenico hails transformational long-term care bill

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This month, Governor Healey signed sweeping reforms to the long-term care and assisted living sectors into law, taking a powerful step towards delivering high quality and safe care for older residents across the Commonwealth. Senator Sal DiDomenico, and long-time co-sponsor and advocate for long-term care legislation hailed the signing of An Act to improve quality and oversight of long-term care, which will strengthen the Commonwealth's oversight of nursing homes, provide critical anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ nursing home residents, and permanently allow assisted living residences to offer basic health services.

"Our Commonwealth's older residents are invaluable members of our community, and state government will be working to improve the quality of life for people living in assisted living facilities," said Senator DiDomenico. "I was proud to support this legislative package, and I am thrilled that we are moving our state forward in helping ensure our long-term care and assisted living facilities are safe and providing quality care throughout the Commonwealth. We are all going to need some form of care when we get older, and it is our obligation in government to guarantee everyone has the right to age with dignity. I want to thank Governor Healey, Senate President Spilka, Chair Rodrigues, and Senator Jehlen for prioritizing this critical legislation."

The new law includes provisions related to basic health services administered in assisted living facilities and oversight of long-term care facilities, including the following:

Inclusion for LGBTQ+ Residents. The legislation requires each long-term care facility to provide staff training on the rights and care of LGBTQ+ older adults and older adults living with HIV. It also forbids any long-term care facility and long-term care facility staff from discriminating based in whole or in part on a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, intersex status or HIV status, whether through the denial of admission, medical or non-medical care, access to restrooms, or through room assignments.

Building the Long-Term Care Workforce. The Long-Term Care Workforce and Capital Fund established in the bill supports several new initiatives to recruit and retain a dedicated long-term care workforce, including grants

to develop new Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), career ladder grants for direct care workers to train to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), along with leadership and supervisory training for nursing home leaders. The fund also establishes a no interest or forgivable capital loan program to off-set certain capital costs, including the development of specialized care units, and to fund other capital improvements. Civil penalties secured by the Attorney General against nursing home facilities for abuse or neglect will be deposited into the fund to support these initiatives.

Estate Recovery. The legislation limits MassHealth estate recovery to only federally mandated recovery and removes estate recovery for residents receiving assistance under CommonHealth.

Medication Aides. It requires the Department of Public Health, in consultation with the Board of Registration in Nursing, to create a program for the certification, training, and oversight of certified medication aides who shall be authorized to administer medications to residents of long-term care facilities.

Expanding Access to Basic Health Services. The bill makes it easier for residents of assisted living residences (ALRs) to offer basic health services such as helping a resident administer drops, manage their oxygen, or take a home diagnostic test. The legislation requires ALRs create service plans that demonstrate the residence has the necessary procedures in place, such as staff training and policies, to ensure safe and effective delivery of basic health services.

Enhancing State Oversight and Compliance to Ensure Quality Care. The legislation enhances oversight and compliance of ALRs by lowering the threshold for ownership interest disclosure from 25 per cent to five per cent. Under the new law, applicants are required to demonstrate that any prior multifamily housing, ALR, or health care facilities in which they had an interest met all the licensure or certification criteria. If any of these facilities were subject to enforcement action, the applicant must provide evidence that they corrected these deficiencies without revocation of licensure or certification.

This bill also gives the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) new powers to penalize non-compliance by allowing them to fine ALRs up to \$500 per day. This is in addition to existing EOEA pow-

(CARE Pg. 10)



Senator Sal DiDomenico speaks at a Mystic Valley Elder Services event.

The Beacon Hill Times - beaconhilltimes.com
 The North End Regional Review - northendregionalreview.com
 The Boston Sun - thebostonsun.com
 The Charlestown Patriot-Bridge - charlestownbridge.com



Our annual Guide to Schools is a resource for parents running in 4 Boston newspapers on September 26
In the hands of over 75,000 weekly readers

Promote your school or Open Houses with us.

Beacon Hill, Back Bay, North End, Fenway, Kenmore, South End & Charlestown

ADVERTISING IN THE GUIDE:

LISTINGS

Free Listings with every Ad!

A brief text descriptive and contact information \$75 per listing, {not included with ads} We have sections for Schools, DayCare, After School Programs, kids related retailers.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING - all ads run in color in all 4 papers.

\$60 per column inch -(2x5 and under) ads that run in the guide can run at this rate through October.

COMMON AD SIZES

2 col (3.9") X 3" - \$300

2 col (3.9") X 5" - \$550

Quarter Page = 2 col x 8" (3.9" wide) \$800

Half page = 5 col x 6.5" (10.25" wide) \$1,500.00 Full page = 5 col x 13" \$2,500.00

Prior sections are available if you would like to to see samples. Please call or email with questions. Deadline September 20, 2024

Deb DiGregorio Advertising

781-485-0588 x 101

deb@thebostonsun.com

Sioux Gerow Advertising

617-241-8500

charlestownads@hotmail.com

Maureen DiBella Advertising

781-485-0588 x 103

mdibella@winthroptranscript.com

FULL PRINT EDITION AVAIL. ONLINE

Published by the Independent Newspaper Group

DiDomenico secures critical food security funding in state budget

Special to the Patriot-Bridge

This summer, Senator Sal DiDomenico and his colleagues in the legislature enacted a \$58 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2025. This budget was a victory for families and working people in his district and throughout the Commonwealth. Senator DiDomenico was especially proud to secure his amendments and priorities that invest significantly in food security programs throughout Massachusetts.

- Senator DiDomenico ensured

that \$42 million that was included for food services in the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP). DiDomenico also secured \$250,000 in additional funding for the program's operations services.

- For the fourth time since 2020, DiDomenico helped secure a 10% increase in cash benefits for low-income families. Because of these increases, low income families, older residents, and individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts receive around \$100-\$200 more each month in cash assistance ben-

efits than they would have gotten without these historic investments. This will help countless people in need afford basic necessities like food, housing, and healthcare for themselves and their families.

- DiDomenico's longtime priority, Universal School Meals, was fully funded again with a \$170 million investment.

- The Hunger Free Campus Initiative was provided a \$500,000 investment. DiDomenico has once again supported this important program priority that helps eliminate food insecurity on college

campuses.

- \$15 million was secured for the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). Senator DiDomenico has ensured funding for this program which helps families buy healthy, local fruits and vegetables from farm vendors across the state.

- Senator DiDomenico also advocated for the inclusion of \$15 million for Food Security Infrastructure Grants. These grants ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to food, with a special focus on food that is pro-

duced locally.

"I couldn't be prouder to have helped secure these investments which will assist people in need keep food on their table so they can survive and thrive in our state," said Senator Sal DiDomenico. "It is my highest priority to ensure people all over my district and throughout the Commonwealth never have to worry about their next meal. These programs will go a long way towards eliminating hunger in our state."

CARE (from pg. 9)

ers to modify, suspend, or revoke a certification, or deny a recertification. Finally, it adds whistleblower protections for staff and residents who report anything happening at an ALR that they reasonably

believe is a threat to the health or safety of staff or residents.

Further, it authorizes the Attorney General to file a civil action against a person who: commits abuse, mistreatment or neglect of

a patient or resident; misappropriates patient or resident property; recklessly permits or causes another to commit abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a patient or resident or misappropriate patient or resident property.

Long Term Care Facilities. The bill requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to inspect each long-term care facility annually to assess quality of services and compliance. It also requires DPH to review the civil litigation history, in addition to the criminal history, of the long-term care facility applicants, including any litigation related to quality of care, patient safety, labor issues, or deceptive business practices.

The bill requires DPH to review the financial capacity of an applicant and its history in providing long term care in Massachusetts and other states. It requires applicants to notify DPH if it is undergoing financial distress, such as filing for bankruptcy, defaulting on a lending agreement, or undergoing receivership.

It allows DPH to limit, restrict, or revoke a long-term care facility license for cause, such as substantial or sustained failure to provide adequate care, substantial or sustained failure to comply with laws or regulations, or lack of financial capacity to operate a facility. It also gives DPH the power to appoint a temporary manager if a long-term care facility owner fails to maintain substantial or sustained compliance with laws and regulations. This manager would be brought on for at least three months, at the facility owner's expense, to bring the facility into compliance.

Small House Nursing Homes. Small House nursing homes have emerged over the last two decades as an alternative to traditional long-term care facilities with a growing body of evidence demonstrating superior clinical outcomes in addition to higher resident and

staff satisfaction levels. The bill would streamline the process for small house nursing homes to be licensed in the Commonwealth.

Outbreak Response Planning, Enhanced Training, and Financial Performance. The bill requires long-term care facilities to develop individualized outbreak response plans to contain the spread of disease and ensure consistent communication with DPH, residents, families, and staff. These plans must include written policies to meet staffing, training, and facility demands during an infectious disease outbreak and requires plans to be reviewed and resubmitted to DPH annually.

The bill also directs DPH to establish and implement training and education programs on topics such as infection prevention and control, resident care plans, and staff safety programs. DPH would also be required to promulgate regulations necessary to enable residents of a facility to engage in in-person, face-to-face, or verbal/auditory-based contact, communications, and religious and recreational activities.

This legislation also directs DPH, in coordination with other agencies and departments, to examine cost trends and financial performance across the nursing industry that will help regulators and policymakers untangle the complicated ownership structure of nursing homes.

Uniform Prior Authorization Forms. The bill requires the Division of Insurance (DOI) to develop and implement uniform prior authorization forms for admissions from acute care hospitals to post-acute care facilities.

Two-Year Prior Authorization Pilot. This legislation requires that all payers, including MassHealth, to approve or deny a request for prior authorization for admissions from acute care hospitals to post-acute care facilities or home

health agencies for post-acute care services, by the next business day or to waive prior authorization altogether when a patient can be admitted over the weekend. In the case of prior authorization for non-emergency transportation between health care facilities, once authorization has been granted, that authorization must remain valid for at least seven days.

Hospital Throughput Task Force. The bill establishes a task force to study and propose recommendations to address acute care hospital throughput challenges and the impact of persistent delays in discharging patients from acute to post-acute care settings. The task force will examine hospital discharge planning and case management practices; administrative legal and regulatory barriers to discharge; efforts to increase public awareness of health care proxies; post-acute care capacity constraints; the effectiveness of interagency coordination; and other items.

MassHealth Long-Term Care Eligibility. The bill requires MassHealth to study the cost and feasibility of changes to its eligibility requirements for with the goal of reducing the time applicants spend at acute-care hospitals awaiting long-term care eligibility determinations. The study will consider improvements to the eligibility determination process; establishing a rebuttable presumption of eligibility; guaranteeing payment for long-term care services for up to one year; and expanding the undue hardship waiver criteria.

HPC Study of Medicare ACOs. This legislation requires the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to conduct an analysis and issue a report on the impact of Medicare accountable care organizations on the financial viability of long-term care facilities and continued access to services for Medicare patients.

Extend your Business's reach with Online Advertising!

Clients and Customers
are just a click away!

\$300⁰⁰ per month
per site



THE
INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPERS

REVEREJOURNAL.COM • WINTHROPTRANSCRIPT.COM

LYNNJOURNAL.COM • EVERETTINDEPENDENT.COM

EASTIETIMES.COM • CHELSEARECORD.COM

CHARLESTOWNBRIDGE.COM • BEACONHILLTIMES.COM

NORTHENDREGIONALREVIEW.COM • THEBOSTONSUN.COM

JAMAICAPLAINGAZETTE.COM • MISSIONHILLGAZETTE.COM

AD SIZE

in pixels

W: 160px

H: 600px

please send
in "png"
format

Combo Rates available!
Buy any 3 sites, get 4th FREE

Call 781-485-0588 to get started!

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Construction Look-Ahead through September 28, for the North Washington Street Bridge is as follows:

Scheduled Work

- Tub girder steel installation
 - Architectural trellis welding, painting, and electrical install
 - City Square median construction
 - Steel touch-up painting
 - Marine fender 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:

- BRUINS: September 22, at 5 p.m. and September 24 at 7 p.m.

- EVENTS: September 20 at 7:45 p.m., September 21 at 7:45 p.m., September 23 at 8 p.m., September 25 at 7 p.m., September 26 at 7 p.m., September 27 at 7 p.m., and September 28 at 7:30 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.

LOCAL STUDENTS EARN ACADEMIC HONORS

TURNER GRADUATES IN SUMMER 2024

Washburn University is pleased to announce the students in its summer 2024 graduating class. These students completed their courses for certificates, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees - more than 300 from Washburn University, Washburn University School of Law and Washburn Institute of Technology.

Amanda Turner from Charlestown graduated with a degree in Master of Health Science with an emphasis in Health Care Education.

These students were/are given the opportunity to participate in

either spring or fall 2024 commencement ceremonies.

Founded in 1865, Washburn University is a public institution with more than 6,000 students involved in more than 200 academic programs. Washburn's programs lead to certification, associate, bachelor, master's degree or doctor of nursing practice and juris doctor degrees. The programs are offered through Washburn's six primary academic units - College of Arts and Sciences, School of Applied Studies, School of Business, School of Nursing, School of Law and Washburn Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech).

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Real Estate Transfers

BUYER 1	SELLER 1	ADDRESS	PRICE
Schaeffer, Kevin	15 Eden St LLC	15 Eden St #1	\$1,585,000
Barsanti, Kristen	Tagliamonte, Glen	191-193 Bunker Hill St #102	\$455,000
Gordon, Alison J	Ciccone, Dana K	281-1/2 Main St	\$1,060,000
462 Medford Street T	Donahue, Edward L	462 Medford St	\$350,000
Brackett, Connor	Ingegneri, Lauren E	5-9 Franklin St #5	\$1,375,000
Richardson, Nicholas	51 Pleasant Street Rt	51 Pleasant St	\$1,550,000
Chan, Kelvin W	Boucher, Charles A	65 Rutherford Ave	\$2,050,000
Campbell, James A	Cookson, Eugene A	67 Green St #1	\$910,000
Kruse, Celeste	Hickey, John	7 Belmont St #2	\$1,460,000
Bauer, Katherine	Pivoda, Alexandra	74 Pearl St #3	\$616,000



Licensed & insured
Complete electrical services
www.johnpmchughelectric.com
jmchugh447@gmail.com
617-320-7703



Chimneys • Fireplaces
Cellar Floors • Restoration
French Drains • Repointing

Free Estimates, Lic. & Ins.

Local References
Phil - 617-230-3490

CASTLEMAINE
CONSTRUCTION
home improvement



Fine carpentry
Interior & exterior
Remodeling

MORGAN FOLEY
781-267-1777
-local references-

Geek For Hire
Computer consultant available for home or business.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- PC support & networking of all types with focus on secure Internet access (wired & wireless),
- broadband router & firewall technology,
- virus detection/prevention,
- spam control & data security/recovery.


617-241-9664
617-515-2933




253 Main St. • Charlestown • 617-241-5566
www.c21elite.com

Sales • Rentals • Free Market Analysis
Certified Buyer Agents

**THINK OF IT AS AN
OWNER'S MANUAL
FOR YOUR MONEY.**



The free *Consumer Action Handbook*. It's in print and online at ConsumerAction.gov. Order your free copy online at ConsumerAction.gov or write to Handbook, Pueblo, CO 81009.

**JOHN J. RECCA
PAINTING**

Commercial/Residential
Interior/Exterior
Fully Insured
Quality Work
Reasonable Rates
Free Estimates

781-241-2454

reccapainting@hotmail.com

SEND US YOUR NEWS

The Patriot-Bridge encourages residents to submit engagement, wedding and birth announcements, news releases, business and education briefs, sports stories and photos for publication. Items should be forwarded to our offices at 385 Broadway, Revere, MA 02151

We also encourage readers to e-mail news releases and photos to deb@reverejournal.com.

CITY PAWS

Real vs fake service dogs

By Penny & Ed Cherubino

As responsible dog guardians, we're concerned when we see fake service dogs. We can only imagine how people with a legitimate need to be accompanied by a highly-trained service dog must feel.

We turned to NEADS World Class Service Dogs for more information. Last year, in preparation for testimony before the Massachusetts Legislature, they reported on survey results of more than 1,300 Service Dog clients from Assistance Dogs International (ADI) accredited organizations.

Sadly, "92.6% of respondents encountered fake, questionable, or uncontrolled service dogs in their time as a service dog user." Meanwhile, "78.8% of respondents had experienced an uncontrolled dog snap at, bitten, vocalize at or interfere with their service dog." Then, "66.0% reported feeling that fraudulent service dogs had negatively impacted their independence and quality of life." Finally, "50.0% encountered fraudulent service dogs in grocery stores and airports."

Real Service Dogs

Real Service Dogs are "impeccably trained." This description is used by one ADI-accredited organization after another. Not only is the dog trained, but the handler has also had extensive training.

This preparation can take up to two years and cost thousands of dollars.

Service dogs are not pets and don't act like pets. They are working and pay attention to the task at hand. They don't sniff the ground or interact with people or other animals. They are sometimes allowed to relax, play, or say hello, but only after a specific direction.

Many legitimate service dogs do not wear a special harness or identification that you will recognize. Some wear identification from their ADI-accredited organization, like NEADS, or a special harness as a guide dog for blind people or a dog trained to pull a wheelchair or to assist their person with stability. Very few are off-leash, carried, or in a stroller.

Fake Service Dogs

Less than one percent of people with disabilities have a service dog. Yet, if you search for service dog identification, harnesses, and tags on any major online retail site, you'll find thousands of items for those who want to pass their pet off as a service dog.

You can easily spot a fake service dog. It is a fake if the dog is off-leash, on an extendable leash, wearing a choke collar, pulling or tugging the handler, or interacting with you or other dogs.

If the dog does not stay right

by the handler, growls, barks, is easily distracted, marks territory, looks frightened, or, in short, does not have a calm, all-about-the-job demeanor, it is most likely a fake.

Misunderstandings

Emotional support dogs are not service dogs and are not entitled to the same accommodations as service dogs and their handlers.

One paid service dog registry site advertises, "Get Lifetime Registration For Your Pet."

That registration does not make your pet a service dog. There are also classes and schools to self-train a service dog. While this is legal and possible, you should ensure that your dog is trained to the same standards as dogs from ADI-accredited organizations, or people will spot the difference and believe you have a fake service dog.

An Exception to Every Rule

Some service dogs are trained

to get help in an emergency. If a recognizable service dog approaches you and wants your attention, follow it. The dog will take you to its person. Once there, allow the dog to do what it is trained to do, direct your questions to the person if possible, and call 911 if necessary.

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



While this may look like a service dog, the extendable leash attached to a metal collar indicates that it is fake.



October 6 at 10am

165 Captains Row, Chelsea

Honoring the Siegal Family
and Geriatric Medical Associates

2024 ALS & MS
WALK
for Living

For
registration information,
or to
make a donation,
please visit:

www.walkforliving.org

BBQ from Chili's,
face painting, petting zoo,
entertainment & more!

media
sponsor

THE
INDEPENDENT
NEWSPAPER GROUP