



# CHARLESTOWN

PATRIOT-BRIDGE

## EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP

*Turn It Around youth group members Hidale Holgun, Karen Romero and Serenity Figueroa clean up some leaves and debris at the Peace Park on Earth Day, April 22. The clean-up saw many local groups and elected officials join the youth to get the Peace Park ready for summer. The Park is slated for major renovations soon, after having gone through a community design process and having received a \$500,000 Community Preservation grant. See Page 7 for more photos.*



## With delays, Rutherford Avenue federal funding diverted to other projects

By Seth Daniel

Delays in the Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square Re-Design project have pushed funding commitments from the Boston MPO to other projects – including a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project expansion now under construction in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury.

With Rutherford and a few other projects not ready to be advertised in the current fiscal year, as planned, the Boston MPO ran into a surplus of money. Moving some other projects forward, like the final leg of the Green Line Extension (GLX), it opened up the ability to fully fund the JP center-lane BRT project.

That said, the Boston MPO did indicate that it still planned to fully fund the Rutherford Avenue project in future funding pro-

grams, and it has been moved forward for a start in funding in Federal Fiscal Year 2023. The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30. The federal government is currently in FFY 2021.

The Rutherford Avenue project was programmed to be funded in the 2021-2025 MPO Plan, with the first payments of \$10.3 million coming towards the end of 2021. Payments of more than \$25 million and as much as \$44 million had been committed to the \$146.37 million project already, but a vote of the Boston MPO recently changed that commitment – and postponed funding because the project was still not ready to advertise.

“Several MPO-funded projects funded in federal fiscal year (FFY)

(RUTHERFORD AVE. Pg. 3)

## Supt. Cassellius announces commission for deployment of Federal Relief Funds

By Seth Daniel

Advocates for public education approved of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) announcement this week to create a Commission that will advise Supt. Brenda Cassellius on the timeline and distribution of more than \$400 million in federal dollars coming to the district.

Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius announced on Monday a new commission and timeline on how BPS will proceed with investing the nearly \$400 million in Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding

the district is expected to receive.

The Commission will advise the Superintendent and BPS on the key focus areas for these new investments, with a commitment to allocating the funding in an equitable and sustainable manner. BPS will leverage the new funding over three years and ensure the new opportunities can be supported for years to come. The Commission will have five meetings, twice monthly over the next two months, with the final meeting to be held on July 1, during which the plan will be presented and posted for a formal 30-day public review and comment period. BPS

is working towards a filing deadline in July with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Will Austin, director of the Boston Schools Fund, had urged caution and planning over the past few weeks in regards to the money – as it was an historic influx of resources that had not been well-publicized up until now. He said the Commission is a good first step.

“I am glad that Boston Public Schools responded to calls for transparency and careful plan-

(FUNDS Pg. 2)

## ALL IN



*It was a wide range of emotions on Monday morning as parents and children parted company at the front door of the Warren Prescott School after nearly a year together, or partially together. Here, Pierce Robinson and his mother, Heather Robinson, share a smile before school started. Public schools all over Charlestown and Boston started a five-day, in-person option for students on April 26, though families also had the choice of staying home remotely. See page 10 for more photos.*

## CNC CORNER

The Charlestown Neighborhood Council will hold a public meeting on Tuesday May 4 at 7pm. We will start to assemble what questions to ask the mayoral candidates. The meeting will be held both via Zoom and in-person at the Knights of Columbus (<50% capacity; masks required), 545 Medford Street. Please send questions via email to [cnc02129@gmail.com](mailto:cnc02129@gmail.com). The link will be available on our website calendar on May 4 – <https://www.charlestownneighborhoodcouncil.org/Calendar.html>.

# EDITORIAL

## BIDEN'S CLIMATE CHANGE BILL: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE?

President Joe Biden's ambitious proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. by 50 percent (from their 2005 levels) by 2030 marks a dramatic moment in the environmental movement.

Those of us old enough to remember the first Earth Day -- 51 years ago this past week -- know how difficult it can be to induce American consumers and businesses to adopt environmentally-friendly habits.

The first Earth Day was inspired by the images a few months before of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River catching fire when the chemical pollutants which industries poured into the river (which in turn streamed into Lake Erie) were ignited by a spark from the shore.

The shocking river fire and the Earth Day movement in turn led to the creation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the full support of then-President Richard M. Nixon, a Republican.

The EPA soon initiated policies that began to improve America's air and waterways, most notably with the elimination of lead in gasoline.

However, despite the tangible accomplishments of the EPA over the past 50 years, our air and water -- the essentials of life for all living things -- have remained as harmful to our health as ever.

A recent study by the American Lung Association concluded that almost 50 percent of all Americans still breathe polluted air.

The 1967 movie, *The Graduate*, predicted the rise of plastics ("Benjamin...I have one word for you: 'Plastics.' There is a great future in plastics.") in everyday life. But what the movie did not anticipate was that within a few decades, micro-plastics not only would contaminate the oceans around the world, but also would be found in every major organ in our bodies.

And of course, there is the matter of global warming, which soon is set to reach a point that will make life as we know it unsustainable in many parts of the world, including our own, where rising sea levels will inundate the Massachusetts coastline.

However, what is encouraging about President Biden's plans is that for the first time, major U.S. companies are supportive of policies that are good for the environment. Although we would like to think that they are doing so for the right reasons, the reality is that these companies realize that climate change will have a catastrophic effect on their business interests.

The U.S. military has warned for the past decade that climate change poses a major threat to our national security and now private industry finally has jumped on the bandwagon. According to an article in the *New York Times* last week, "Rising temperatures are likely to reduce global wealth significantly by 2050, as crop yields fall, disease spreads, and rising seas consume coastal cities...The effects of climate change can be expected to shave 11 percent to 14 percent off global economic output by 2050 compared with growth levels without climate change, according to a report from Swiss Re, one of the world's largest providers of insurance to other insurance companies."

So we applaud President Joe Biden's dramatic pro-environment policies, which incorporate many aspects of the Green New Deal put forward by our U.S. Senators, Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, in tandem with New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

And we are heartened that American business is fully on-board with the president's proposals.

Hopefully, the shift in our national policy will not be a case of too little, too late.

On the other hand, for those of us who celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970, we have to say, "Better late than never."

## CLERGY VIEWPOINT

FROM THE CHARLESTOWN CLERGY ASSOCIATION

### There are no words

By Very Reverend James Ronan, VF – Pastor, St. Mary-St. Catherine of Siena Parish

There are times in the lives of all of us when an experience comes along that stretches us, makes it hard to understand, explain and grasp. Sometimes the experience is beauty and loveliness, for example, the birth of a child. At other times the event might be terrible, ugly and tragic, a fatal auto accident. And when we move from such moments and later try to explain to another what happened, what it was like, we fail; there simply are no words adequate.

For more than 2000 years Christians have tried to put into words the Easter story. The Passion gospel is proclaimed during Holy Week and narrates the story of the Last Supper, the arrest and torture of Jesus and His crucifixion and death. On Easter Sunday, we proclaim the story of the empty tomb: Jesus has been raised from death and now lives again.

So it is that we can tell the story, just like we can say that at a certain time and place a precious child was born and similarly at

such and such a time, a terrible and fatal accident occurred. And yet the narration only tells a part of the story and there is so much more to really begin to understand the event. It is moving beyond the story and into the real meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that brings one into the place where we struggle to find the words.

Music, poetry, literature, drama, opera, art in every form has all sought to lead us into the depths of the Jesus story. Often all of these most noble of efforts are helpful in lifting us beyond mere words toward a mystery as elusive as it is alluring. For we are seeking to know something of God, the ineffable and omnipotent One, and still, there are no words. Yet the magnitude of the Easter story impels us to seek to understand, something!

Our tradition asserts that this broken world, including you and me, with all of the evil, fear, darkness and sadness of our time, has

been embraced by the Son of the Living God, nailed to a primitive cross to suffer, die and be buried. And early in the morning of the third day, this same Jesus rose from death, conquering the power of evil and death forevermore. On the first Easter morning, Hope was born. It is not a theoretical and distant Hope, rather one that is available to all. On Easter the Church celebrates in a particular way the Sacrament of Baptism, initiating a person into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There is a stirring in people, an inner something that longs to grasp this enormous truth, for which there are no words. Christ is Risen and in the midst of all the activities of humankind, the joyful and the sad, Hope is present and can never be diminished. To move beyond the story this Eastertime, to let the inadequate words lead us deep into our heart and to listen to that inner longing for Hope and walk in the promise of Easter is the gift God offers every one of us.

### FUNDS (from pg. 1)

ning," he said. "This commission is an important first step in ensuring that Boston Public Schools uses the federal funds in a way that best addresses the educational inequities exacerbated during the pandemic. It's important for members of the public to be fully informed about how the money will be spent and have a voice in the process."

The core approach of all aspects of current work in BPS align to our Return, Recover, and Reimagine framework, operational budget, and the five-year strategic plan approved in 2020.

- Return = Ensure a healthy and safe return of students and staff to in-person learning this summer and fall.

- Recover = Reconnect and re-establish our school communities so students have the teaching and support needed to accelerate their learning.

- Reimagine = Seize the opportunity to learn from this past year and apply innovative practices to advance 21st century learning and

a more equitable school district.

"I am grateful to President Biden and Congress for this strong investment in ensuring our schools have the resources needed to support students, families, and staff," said Cassellius. "With the additional investments from the City in our operating budget and capital investments, these new funds will bring critical resources directly into classrooms. We know we cannot return to the pre-pandemic model of learning because it was not working for all students. We have learned a lot since the closure of school buildings in 2020 and are excited for this opportunity to remove the barrier of lack of funding, so we can focus on transforming the educational experience for all our students."

BPS also announced a new webpage where all information on the funding will be posted so the public can track how funds are being spent, keep up on the strategies the district is employing and stay informed of the measures being used to gauge student outcomes.

This new website is designed to ensure BPS is a good steward of the public trust and to serve as an easy-to-access place for transparency and information sharing.

Commission members represent a wide range of community members who engage with BPS on a regular basis, and were selected based on their work with BPS students and school, their relationships with key BPS stakeholders, and their knowledge of the district's strategic priorities. Members are listed on the Return, Recover, Reimagine Commission webpage.

Meetings will take place from 5 - 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, May 13
- Thursday, May 27
- Thursday, June 10
- Thursday, June 24
- Thursday, July 1

Meetings will be hosted virtually, simulcast to the public, and feature a public comment period at the end of each meeting. There will also be a formal 30-day public review and comment period.

# Ryan endorse Santiago for Mayor

Staff Report

Mayoral candidate and South End State Rep. Jon Santiago has earned the endorsement of another Boston legislator, with Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan joining the Santiago campaign for mayor this week.

“I’m proud to support Jon Santiago for Mayor and am excited to begin campaigning side by side with him,” said Ryan. “Dr. Santiago is a proven leader of teams, a passionate public servant, and frontline healthcare worker that we need in this moment for our city. Jon is uniquely positioned to lead our city through these challenging times and chart a full and equitable recovery for Boston.”

Ryan was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2014 and represents the 2nd Suffolk District, including Charlestown. Ryan currently serves as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws. In the House, Ryan has been among the body’s leading voices on issues important to veterans. He was also among the most vocal advocates for the landmark 2018 opioid prevention bill, engaging with law enforcement and advocates to expand crisis intervention response train-



Mayoral candidate and South End State Rep. Jon Santiago with Charlestown State Rep. Dan Ryan.

ing. He and Santiago worked closely together on the milestone Student Opportunity Act, passing a once-in-a-generation package to strengthen public education in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth.

“Dan Ryan is a tireless advocate for Boston at the state house and in his community, and I’m honored to welcome him to our campaign,” said Santiago. “His work on the opioid crisis, issues important to veterans, and expanding public education funding have helped create a safer and stronger Massachusetts. His endorsement

is so important in this race, and I look forward to working with him to lead us through a recovery to post-pandemic Boston that’s stronger than ever before.”

With today’s endorsement, Ryan joins four of his colleagues in the legislature including Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, Assistant Majority Leader Mike Moran and Representatives Kevin Honan and Ed Coppinger in supporting Santiago’s campaign. Other notable endorsements for Santiago include Laborers Local Union 223, community leader Horace Small, former Executive Director of the Union of Minority Neighborhoods, and the Latino Victory Fund.

Jon Santiago is currently serving his second term as the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District representing the South End, Roxbury, Back Bay, and Fenway neighborhoods of Boston. He is an emergency room physician employed at Boston Medical Center, the city’s safety net hospital. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and has deployed overseas. Prior to these experiences, Santiago served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He lives in the South End with his wife, Alexandra.

## BPDA takes step back in deciding on Pier 5 proposals

By Seth Daniel

The process to evaluate and designate a developer among the three housing proposals put forth for the condemned Pier 5 site in the Navy Yard has taken a small step back, and there could be a slight delay in the timeline as the City looks into regulatory issues raised by the community – among other things.

In a letter to the community, Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) Project Manager Morgan McDaniel wrote that the Agency continues to evaluate the three proposals and the vast amounts of public input received since February.

“In addition to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the three proposals, we are looking into regulatory concerns that have been raised, and we are investigating the concerns some have

raised about any development on the site,” she wrote. “We remain very committed to working closely with the Navy Yard and broader Charlestown community to determine the best course of action for this property. We expect it to take several additional weeks for the BPDA to conduct these detailed evaluations and research necessary to inform a recommendation on the next step for the process.”

McDaniel wrote there would be many opportunities for public input going forward and they are in the “early stages” of shaping the future of the Pier 5 site.

The BPDA was not immediately available to speak in depth on the potential delay, but said they would speak in the coming week more about the process.

In January, after the three developers responded to the RFP put out last fall, the BPDA had hoped to conclude the public pro-

cess and designate a developer by the late spring.

There had been widespread support for the RFP going out, even for housing, on Pier 5 in meetings that were held in late 2019. COVID-19’s surge slowed that down a bit, but last summer the effort picked back up and the RFP did go out. However, once the proposals came in, there seemed to be a change of heart in the community about the proposals – with many indicating they would rather see a park or open space on the pier.

The Pier was condemned in 2018 and has been vacant for years. The steel pilings holding it up were deemed unsafe by underwater divers and engineers in a reconnaissance study done in 2017 and 2018. Up to that point, the BPDA had hoped to create a new park on the pier – similar to Lawn on D. The failed pilings, however, made that impossible.

## RUTHERFORD AVE. (from pg. 1)

2022, including Rutherford Avenue, were pushed back due to concerns that they would not be ready to advertise for construction in that year,” said Spokesperson Tegin Teich. “Those projects were the Reconstruction of Rutherford Avenue in Boston, the Rehabilitation of Mount Auburn Street in Watertown, Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street in Norwood and Intersection Improvements at Route 1A and Upland Road/Washington Street and Prospect Street/Fulton Street in Norwood. This created a funding surplus in FFY 2022. To use this funding, the last year of the MPO’s funding for the Green Line Extension (GLX) project was moved from FFY 2021 into FFY 2022. These funds were no longer needed for GLX to continue to move forward in FFY 2021, and this shift has no impact on the project’s construction schedule.”

With Rutherford not ready, and the GLX project moved ahead, that created excess money to be shifted to the Jamaica Plain BRT Bus project extension. That project is currently under construction on Columbus Avenue there and runs from Centre Street to Walnut Avenue there. The funding that was to go to Rutherford Avenue/Sullivan Square re-design will now fund extending that center BRT lane on Columbus Avenue from Centre Street in JP to Ruggles Station in Roxbury.

“With GLX moved into FFY 2022, this created a funding surplus in FFY 2021 (the current year),” wrote Teich. “The Columbus Avenue bus lane emerged as a good candidate for these funds because the project was ready to move forward this year and aligns well with the MPO’s goals

of funding more bus-priority corridors and enhancing equity and access to transit. The MPO voted to include Columbus Ave in FFY 2021 as a result.”

The Boston MPO said it isn’t dropping the Rutherford Re-design project, but due to it not being ready, it had to be moved two fiscal years forward. That would mean funding wouldn’t become available for the first year of the project until at least October 2022.

“Rutherford has moved into FFYs 2023-2027, and the MPO anticipates fully funding the project with that final year, 2027,” she said. “So, the MPO still expects to fund the project even though the current TIP doesn’t cover all the years.”

The project costs right now are \$146.37 million, and there is a substantial amount of money that has been contributed by Wynn Resorts as part of the mitigation plan for opening Encore Boston Harbor resort. The casino in 2014 committed to making \$20 million in improvements to the corridor in alignment with the long-term plan for Rutherford/Sullivan. Some \$5 million of that was spent on short-term improvements that are already completed. Another \$15 million goes directly to the long-term project. The casino committed to spending a total of \$65 million in traffic improvements for the area more than six years ago.

Boston Transportation Department (BTD) officials said last fall that they had submitted plans to the Boston MPO for the 25 percent milestone, and expected to have a public meeting last January, but that didn’t happen. There was no word on where the project stood at the moment, but 75 percent design was anticipated by June 2021.



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# Essaibi George looks to tackle equity, lack of consistency in education plan

By John Lynds

Last Tuesday At-Large City Councilor, former high school teacher and current Boston Mayoral Candidate Annessa Essaibi George released her education plan.

Before entering the political arena, Essaibi George taught Economics, Business Management and Health and Human Services to juniors and seniors at East Boston High School and served as the school's assistant softball coach for 14 years before being elected to the Council in 2015.

"As a former Boston Public Schools teacher, a mother of four BPS students, and Chair of the Boston City Council's Education Committee, I know that we have to make changes to our public schools in order to provide every one of our students the quality education they deserve," said Essaibi George. "Today, I released my Education and Child Care plan



At-Large City Councilor, former high school teacher and current Boston Mayoral Candidate Annessa Essaibi George released her education plan last Tuesday.

that focuses on providing high quality schools for every student in each of our neighborhoods. The inconsistency in the quality of our schools is directly linked to declining enrollment, a widening opportunity and achievement gap, and a

lack of trust in BPS to provide our kids with a great education."

Throughout her tenure on the Council Essaibi George has focused great attention on students, educators, and families.

Informed by her time in the classroom and by the ideas and lived experiences of advocates, experts, families, educators, students and Boston residents Essaibi George said the plan includes short- and long-term solutions to rebuild an equitable school system, increase trust within our school communities, and prioritize and invest in child care infrastructure.

"As a former Boston Public Schools teacher, a BPS graduate, a mother to four BPS students, and the current Chair of Boston City Council's Committee on Education, I've held a front row seat to the challenges facing Boston families—both in and out of our public school system," said Essaibi George. "I've seen firsthand the school to prison pipeline. I've seen the heartbreaking

repercussions of not having food access or housing, a stable income and affordable health and mental health care. These are all issues that I can and will take on as Mayor of Boston."

Essaibi George said the greatest challenge facing BPS is that not every student is receiving a high quality education.

"The variations in the quality of schools are directly linked to declining enrollment, a widening opportunity and achievement gap, and a lack of trust in BPS to provide our kids with the education they deserve," she said. "The inequities among our schools and across learning opportunities, facilities, and student support services, continue to exacerbate existing racial and economic disparities for students. That needs to end."

She said her education priorities if elected mayor would be to close the opportunity and achievement gap.

"In order to accomplish this we must begin with establishing

equitable baseline standards and resources in every school," said Essaibi George. "We also need to implement consistent, district-wide curriculum standards to reduce disparities between schools and ensure that every BPS school is providing high quality academics. This also starts by establishing a structured literacy program for every child from pre K-3. And then also, I've said this before, we need to be investing in vocational and technical education here in Boston to ensure our students are prepared to take advantage of the opportunities in our labor market. I will prioritize improvements to Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and vocational programs in BPS to provide our students with a strong foundation for lifelong success and career readiness after graduation."

You can read the full plan at <https://www.annissaforboston.com/education-child-care/>.

# Neighbors applaud as MBTA restores Charlestown Ferry May 22

By Seth Daniel

The Charlestown Ferry didn't take long to be restored, with the MBTA announcing this week they would restore the popular service on May 22 after discontinuing through the winter due to a budget crunch.

The new schedules for MBTA ferry services will include the resumption of direct service from Charlestown and Hingham as well as the resumption of weekend

Hingham/Hull ferry service.

The loudest applause, of course, came from the Navy Yard, where the Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard was ecstatic to hear of the restoration of the Ferry service.

"Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard wholeheartedly applauds the MBTA's decision to build back the Inner Harbor water ferry service," said President Michael Parker. "A robust water transportation system is not only important now for post-

Covid recovery, but serves as a foundation for future expansion which will strengthen connections between waterfront communities, make the Harbor more accessible to underserved communities, and help combat climate change by reducing our dependency on individual motor vehicles. That said, we would like to see the MBTA explore ways to reduce fares so that the service is even more accessible to all and stimulates more demand."

•Building Back Ferry Service:

Ferry schedule changes that included the temporary suspension of direct Charlestown and Hingham ferry service as well as weekend Hingham/Hull service took effect in January 2021 and were aimed at aligning ferry service with lower ridership levels experienced during the pandemic.

With the goal of creating a better system than before the pan-

demical that reflects changing travel behaviors and ridership needs, the MBTA is now building back to pre-pandemic service levels by resuming these ferry services. The upcoming spring 2021 weekday schedule is an increase of 106 additional trips when compared to the current ferry schedule, delivering approximately 80% of pre-pandemic weekday service levels. The weekend schedule reflects 68% of pre-pandemic service.

On May 22, 2021, the following changes will occur to ferry service:

•Full weekday and weekend Charlestown Ferry service will resume with 78 weekday and 34 weekend trips.

•Weekday service between Hingham and Rowes Wharf in Boston will resume with 14 inbound trips to Boston beginning at 6 AM and ending at 7:40 PM and 11 outbound trips to

Hingham beginning at 7:15 AM and ending at 7:30 PM.

•Service between Hingham, Hull, and Long Wharf will continue with the addition of limited weekday service to Logan Airport resuming, including two inbound trips to Long Wharf in Boston at 12:45 PM and 5:45 PM and two outbound trips from Long Wharf to Logan at 6:40 AM and 7:40 AM.

•Weekend service between Hingham, Hull, Logan Airport, and Long Wharf will resume. Ten inbound trips will depart Hingham for Long Wharf beginning at 8 AM and ending at 5 PM with five trips stopping at Hull and three trips stopping at Logan Airport. Ten outbound trips will depart Long Wharf for Hingham beginning at 9 AM and ending at 6 PM with one trip stopping at Logan Airport and four trips stopping at Hull.

## CHARLESTOWN GYM HOCKEY

### Weekly Standings for week 4/24/2021

	W.	L	T
Bryan's Pals.	2	0	
A-1 Convenience.	2	0	
MPTA.	0	2	
Duce 2.	0	2	

### Players of the week for 4/24/2021

- A-1 Convenience - William Savage, Grady Bartlett
- Bryan's Pals - Jameson Donovan, Callen Kelley
- Duce 2 - Chia Rapoza, Jack Brett
- MPTA - Walter DeMont, Clay Hess



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# RISE Construction, One Mystic partner with Veterans Partnership

By Seth Daniel

RISE Construction – operated in part by Charlestown native Eric Gould – and the rest of the One Mystic development team have formalized an agreement with the Charlestown Veterans Partnership and the building trades to construct an elevator at Memorial Hall as part of the historic building's restoration efforts.

The building has been in the throes of restoration for several years in small pieces, and it is the headquarters of the Abraham Lincoln Post and other veterans outreach efforts. This year, however, things have kicked into overdrive with City funding, construction by the North Bennet Street School and now partnership like this with RISE.

On Monday, several of the collaborators gathered with the veterans and representatives from the buildings trades to mark the commitment to construct the elevator and a new Honor Roll Memorial.

RISE Construction Management Executive Vice President Eric Gould said he was glad to give back to the Town that he grew up in, and particularly to the veterans.

“RISE Construction is honored to work with the local Charlestown Veterans Partnership to assist in the restoration of Memorial Hall and creation of the Honor Roll Memorial,” he said. “This is personal to us, as many of our team

members grew up and still live here in the neighborhood. We are thankful to the Veterans and their impact in this community throughout the years, and we look forward to our continued friendship and partnership.”

Lincoln Post President Joe Zuffante said they are very happy to work with RISE and the One Mystic partners to promote veterans issues on the job and in the restoration of the Hall.

“We are very happy to cooperate and work with RISE Construction,” he said. “We’re happy to work with a local Townie who wants to contribute and give back. That, after all, is the fabric of this community.”

Rich Brennan, director of the Veterans Outreach Program, said this group came out of nowhere and offered to help, which is very rare.

“This group came out of nowhere to seek us out,” he said. “They wanted to help us. They opened the door to something much larger that we didn’t even know could happen.”

Steve Fabiano, of the Veterans Partnership, said it was refreshing to have developers looking to get a project in the Town seek out groups that need help and offer that help with no strings.

“They were the ones that came to us,” he said. “That’s a drastic change from anything I’ve seen in 50 years. They came to our door and they did that because they want to help veterans. They came

out of nowhere and really took a big cloud off of our building.”

Bill Durette, of the Partnership, said he was impressed with the speed that they wanted to get something done.

“We met once and they immediately wanted to have a second meeting,” he said. “I was impressed by that because it said they were sincere about wanting to help the veterans groups. They came prepared and they haven’t even gotten anything yet. They wanted to get in with the community and give back first.”

Chris Brennan, a Charlestown native and the business representative for the Painter’s Union, said all of the building trades are in line with One Mystic and contributing to the Memorial Hall elevator and Honor Roll.

“We’re going to be working with RISE to help them with manpower and financially to help with the addition of the elevator,” he said. “It’s important to understand RISE Construction is a good contractor, a responsible contractor. The people that work for them and their subcontractors get a fair wage and benefits – health insurance and retirement. They’re the type of company we like to work with in the building trades. They’re going to be committing to other non-profits in the Town and putting Charlestown kids into training programs for jobs and offering real equity for the people of Charlestown. Traffic might be something to navigate



From the Partnership and from RISE were Eric Gould, Zouk Mo, Joe Zuffante, Kim Mahoney, Steve Fabiano, Rich Brennan and Billy Durette.



Gathered at Memorial Hall on Monday to cement the partnership between RISE Construction, the building trades and the Charlestown Veterans Partnership were Chris Brennan, Steve Fabiano, Greg Poole, Zouk Mo, Billy Durette, Rich Brennan, Joe Zuffante and Eric Gould.

with this, but the pros outweigh the cons. They’re incorporating all these non-profits from the veterans to the Recovery Community. It shows where they’re at. I think they’re smart enough to know they can make money and also spread the wealth here. You don’t really find that often, and in my business there isn’t a lot of that.”

Charlestown’s Greg Poole, of the Carpenter’s Union, said they are also committed. He said development is a tricky subject these days, but it gives opportunities and jobs, helps local groups like the veterans and improves the community.

“We’re fully in favor of the

project and the prospect of providing more opportunities,” he said. “From a personal perspective, I’d like to see more people from the community get into the pipeline for good jobs and get an opportunity and a chance like I got in 1999...We’re looking to recruit more from Boston and preferably Charlestown. What everyone forgets is development changes places for the better. Development has been a great thing when compared to what it was here. No one would have come here to live. There were no opportunities here. Now, our children have opportunities and we can help our community organizations too.”



## Virtual Public Meeting

### One Mystic Avenue

Tuesday, May 18  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: [bit.ly/1Mystic](https://bit.ly/1Mystic)  
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864  
Meeting ID: 161 627 2535

#### Project Proponent:

One Mystic Owner, LLC an affiliate of Fulcrum Global Investors, LLC

#### Project Description:

The Proposed Project consists of the demolition of the existing structures occupying the site and the construction of an approximately 552,000 mixed-use building with up to 695 residential units, retail/commercial space, and approximately 240 off-street vehicle parking spaces.

Please note, this public meeting was advertised and originally scheduled to be held on April 29, 2021, but it has since been rescheduled to May 18, 2021. Please use meeting link in this ad to register for the meeting.

mail to: **Raul Duverge**  
Boston Planning & Development Agency  
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02201  
phone: 617.918.4492  
email: [raul.duverge@boston.gov](mailto:raul.duverge@boston.gov)

Close of Comment Period:  
6/11/2021

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# AREA GROUPS GATHER TOGETHER TO CLEAN-UP PEACE PARK

Photos by Seth Daniel

Several community groups and neighbors joined the Turn It Around youth group to stage a clean-up of the Peace Park on Lowney Way last Thursday, April 22 – which was Earth Day. The Peace Park got a good sprucing up, with flower plantings as well, on the day. The Peace Park is slated for major renovations after getting a \$500,000 Community Preservation grant earlier this year.



Lili Sgro plants some flowers in one of the beds at the Peace Park.



Connor Ring with CRA President Nancy Martinez.



Coral Calderon, Anna Renta and Brianna Arroyo get ready to plant some Pansies in the central area of the park.



Ginaya Greene-Murray of the Charlestown Coalition helps Turn It Around members Ibrahim Balde and Khalid Ali clean up leaves by the fencing.



Sean Boyle is hard at work sprucing up the space.



Jazlynn Quintana plants some purple Pansies as Lisa Gerrish digs up one of the beds. Gerrish was there on behalf of Banana Republic, where she is a manager, earning volunteer hours in hopes of getting a grant for Turn It Around from the company.



Crystal Galvin of the Kennedy Center, Councilor and Mayoral candidate Michelle Wu, Councilor Lydia Edwards and Sarah Coughlin of the Charlestown Coalition.



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## The Anchor opens for the season with new additions, more programming

By Seth Daniel

The Anchor venue in the Navy Yard has opened for the season, and with the warmer weather

coming, anticipates having another great year of food, drinks and programming on the waterfront.

It will be the third season for The Anchor, which operates in

an open-air format adjacent to Shipyard Park in the Navy Yard, and operators of the facility believe it will be their best year so far after having ample time to evaluate their menu, their drink selections and their programming features.

Right now, the Anchor is open from 4- 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but Operators Chris Sinclair and Shelby Elwell expect to expand those hours in the coming weeks.

"We anticipate opening from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. more often to accommodate lunches," said Sinclair. "A lot of neighborhood residents have told us they want to be able to come for lunch. We also do the meal program with Boston Public Schools and that was a huge success last year."

Programming is also a major piece of the puzzle. Last year, due to COVID-19, they had to have far more programs to accommodate the attendance limits – logging more than 400 programs over the season, which ends on Dec. 31.

"Instead of a fitness class with 50 people, it was six classes with 10 people," he said. "I anticipate 2021 being similar. We want everyone to have fun. Maybe into the future we would have the ability to host special events and community celebrations, but we'll be able to maintain these events and the programming frequency."

Elwell said they had to re-think their programming last year to be less interacting and more instructive. This year, in fact, was the first year they were able to really take an off-season to plan for the

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Do you have history to share about your house? Honor your home by creating a poster of your own.

Connecting Charlestown through the history of its historic homes and buildings.

Visit [CharlestownPreservation.org](http://CharlestownPreservation.org) for a map of the houses on Saturday May 1st.



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More event information at [www.CharlestownPreservation.org](http://www.CharlestownPreservation.org).

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## May Day Charlestown looks to bring business back to Town

By Seth Daniel

To jump-start businesses of all kind on May 1, the Charlestown business community has come together like never before to highlight all kinds of businesses and invite residents to shop safely and patronize the local proprietors in the Town.

The idea was hatched by Amanda Mitchell of Junebug and Place & Gather, and then helped along by Sean Boyle of All Roads Charlestown - with assistance from Kim Mahoney of the Warren Tavern as well. The result has been the convergence of more than 25 brick and mortar stores and restaurants and throngs of vendors and home-based businesses all coming into the central business district to draw in customers and help bring back the local economy.

"The nuts and bolts behind May Day is to promote local businesses to residents and have them come out and support our local small businesses that took such a hard hit last year," Mitchell said. "It started with the brick and mortar businesses. We put the idea out and it really took off. We really

hope we can drum up support for these businesses in the neighborhood after last year. Really the neighborhood really wouldn't be that fun without these small businesses. We really want to keep our neighborhood Boston's best.

"I think we'll get a ton of neighborhood support," she continued. "It will be safe, but a lot of fun."

Throughout the day there will be sales and specials at participating business, and there will be pop-ups in the businesses and fitness classes outside from local trainers - as well as specials at the Town's favorite restaurants.

Boyle joined the effort and enlivened it substantially by creating the May Day Market from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with vendors and home-based businesses, which will set up in the parking lot of the First Church in Charlestown on Green Street.

"The market is about 15 to 20 all Charlestown connected mom and pop businesses that usually do stuff at the fairs and bazaars - as well as at the holidays and on Parade Day," he said. "They haven't had those outlets with so many cancellations and so this is a great opportunity for them...It's

a great diverse group of people."

Mahoney praised the effort for its collaboration, and said it's been awhile since so many different types of businesses in Charlestown came together for one big promotion. She said she hopes the connections forged will continue into future endeavors.

"What is tremendous about this is the collaboration that has formed here between businesses that have never connected before," she said. "Everybody has a different network and now we're bringing all of our different networks together with the goal of helping all of the businesses represented."

Boyle added that he has produced a list of businesses with Mitchell that has really become a great asset for economic coordination, and something they will use going into the summer and the holidays too.

"I think it's going to be very exciting," said Mitchell. "I've lived in the neighborhood 10 years and I'm definitely not a Townie. But I am excited to be working together with everyone on this. It has made us a more cohesive business community. It's something special about Charlestown

and something that's better than the other neighborhoods. We have people that grew up her and people who moved here, but everyone is obsessed with Charlestown."

The effort is being publicized on Instagram as the central location, and those participating are urged to use the hashtag (#MayDayCTown).

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# Warren-Prescott, other schools return the five-day, in-person option

By Seth Daniel

Happy students who had chosen returning to school in-person, full-time at the highest rate in the city returned to the Warren Prescott School in grades K-8 on Monday with all the smiles and excitement of what would be the first day of school – but this time in late April.

Many students had not ever really been to the school full-time, as they were in younger grades and have spent a vast majority of their school years at home remote, and more recently, in a hybrid format two days a week. However, until Monday, students had not had the option of the traditional school format of five days a week, in-person for more than a year.

Brian Gowdy noted that his daughter, Caroline, is in kindergarten, and most of her schooling has taken place at home, he said, so it was a welcome change for their family.

“I think it’s a great change for the kids,” he said. “My daughter Caroline is in K-2 and more than half of her schooling to date has come under COVID protocols and mostly remote. Full-time school is

going to be good for her.”

Principal Michele Davis said they were excited to welcome back so many students, and noted they had 420 students coming for in-person learning on Monday.

“I’m so excited to welcome more than 400 students back for in-person learning five days a week,” she said. “It’s been a year of adjustments and I know we will persist and prevail in making these adjustments as well. I’m happy to see smiling faces return to the W-P.”

Elementary Supt. Tommy Welch said a great deal of the planning had been done before the break to prepare the facility and the staff for having so many kids back in the schools this week. He said they did a lot of the hard work before the Spring Break, and then used the Break for everyone to recharge and for facilities staff to button up the finishing touches at each school.

“We’ve been working really hard on operations and facilities – transportation and food service

too,” he said. “It’s just an exciting day and it does feel like regular school again.”

Overall, less than half of the parents throughout BPS chose

an in-person learning model for their students in grades K-8. High school students in grades 9-12

(SCHOOL Pg. 13)

By Seth Daniel



The kindergartners, many coming to school for the first time ever on Monday, were taken by Bunker the Turtle when he came to visit them on the playground.



Eddie Longnecker gets ready for a return to full-time school on Monday, accompanied by his parents, Jeff and Jo Jo.



Nadine Oughton and little Archie Oughton accompany Hugo Oughton to his first day back and in-person school.



Teacher Tracey Lavin puts sanitizer on the hands of Jaila before she enters the building on Monday. Every student had to sanitize their hands before going inside for the day.



Several friends arrived together on Monday, some seeing each other for the first time in months – or even an entire years – at the Warren Prescott School. Here, Michelle Murray, Stella Murray, Rebecca Murphy, Analise Murphy and Anna Cavanaugh exchange greetings.



Parents Kate Fillo, Brian Gowdy, and Devin Quirk bring their kids to the first week of traditional, in-person school. Students included Sadie Fillo-Gowdy, Caroline Fillo-Gowdy, and Kiera Quirk.



Teacher Tina Champagne, Elementary School Supt. Tommy Welch, Principal Michelle Davis and Bunker the Turtle.

CHARLESTOWN BEAT

**POLICE/COMMUNITY MEETING:** Meet the police & discuss public safety issues on the last Wednesday of every month at the police station, 20 Vine Street, at 6:00 p.m., 2nd floor, community room.

**POLICE RELATED INFO:** Contact the District A-1 Community Service Office at 617-343-4627.

**Investigate Person**

04/21/2021 - Officers responded to a radio call at 6330 Rutherford Ave. at about 6 p.m. for a second time for person with a gun. The caller stated that the suspect was a tall male, wearing a gray sweat-shirt. Officers observed suspect in the lobby of 330 Rutherford Ave. and, after the investigation, recovered a black-and-silver Smith and Wesson handgun from him. The suspect was arrested and transported back to Area A -1 to be processed.

**Operating Under the Influence (OUI) Drugs**

04/22/2021 - Officer responded to a radio call at the Alford Street Bridge at about 4:56 p.m. for a motor vehicle accident, where the operator of the black truck was thought to possibly be under the influence. On arrival, the officer observed operator of the truck

slumped over the center console. After further investigation, it was determined the suspect was operating under the influence of drugs. The suspect was placed under arrest and transported back to Area A-1 to be processed.

**Larceny - All Others**

04/22/2021 - On arrival at 27 Monument Square at approximately 7:30 p.m., police spoke with caller who stated a package was taken off of her porch at 6:58 p.m.. The caller informed the officer that she had captured the incident on her Nest camera system. Officer observed the suspect wearing a blue cap with a red brim, blue jacket, and blue jeans. The suspect face was not observed in the footage. The suspect fled down Concord Street towards Bunker Hill Street. The officer informed the caller to save the footage for detectives.

**ANCHOR** (from pg. 8)

summer, fall and winter.

“This is the first time we’ve had a real off-season,” she said. “We took time to prepare for the upcoming season. Last year we had a quick turnaround to get a full season in with COVID. This year, we’ve been able to make those changes with extra time.”

One thing they’ve done is re-thought the food menu. They have hired two sous chefs and have made their catering menu more of their daily menu. In addition, they made some substantial investments into the facility and the kitchen space. Some of the highlights on the menu include pulled pork sliders, crispy chicken tacos, lobster rolls and clam chowder. There is also soft serve ice cream added, and deserts like tiramisu and chocolate chip cannoli.

“It’s comfort food, but with a tropical vibe,” said Elwell. “It’s simple, but we think more appealing.”

On the drink menu, they offer more than 25 alcoholic drinks and more than 20 non-alcoholic drinks. On May 1, they plan to



The Anchor has opened for the season this month in the Navy Yard and said they have finally had a full off-season with no distractions to plan for robust programming, food service and drink offerings.

re-introduce a whole line of frozen drinks, which were very well received last year and will be more enhanced with more options this year.

“It’s a big bar by design,” said Sinclair. “We like to have a big selection so there is something for everyone. Everybody should be able to find something they enjoy here.”

The thematic elements that drew out more people to the venue than ever last year will also

be back bigger and better in the fall and holiday seasons later this year. The overall programming will kick off on May 1, but for the everyday visitor – the seating arrangements continue to offer space and community at the same time. Plus, they also offer Wi-Fi so that one can set up and work for lunch or meet someone for a work meeting there as well.

Some of the first programming will be the return of Live at 5 acoustic music and the Reggae brunch

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- Uzoma, Jillian
- Culhane, Peter J
- Ewing, Grant T
- Frawley, Kimberly
- Shompie, Sarah

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- Martindale, Terrance A
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- Weber, Michael T

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Deadline for entries will be Friday, April 30th.

Entries will be published in the May 5th, & 6th issues of the Revere Journal, Chelsea Record, Everett Independent, East Boston Times, Winthrop Sun Transcript, The Lynn Journal & The Charlestown Patriot Bridge

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# On Earth Day, Wu calls for end of dirty diesel polluting school bus-fleet, full electrification by 2030

By Seth Daniel

On Earth Day, City Councilor At-Large and Candidate for Mayor Michelle Wu joined advocates, including David Meshoulam, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Speak for the Trees, to call for the City of Boston to electrify its school bus fleet by 2030.

The BPS transportation fleet consumes nearly 60 percent of all the diesel fuel consumed by the City government. The move is part of Wu's Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools, which is part of her larger education vision to upgrade facilities and ensure every school is a modern, healthy and inspiring place to learn.

Roughly 24,000 Boston students are transported to and from school on 3,100 bus trips every day, and about half of these buses still run on diesel fuel. Pollution on diesel buses has been measured at five to 10 times higher than in other nearby areas, causing outside impacts on children's learning, development and health. Not only do pollutants from diesel fuel cause asthma and other respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer but there is also evidence to suggest the diesel directly impacts children's English and math scores. Boston's Black, Latinx and AAPI residents are disproportionately exposed to particulate matter pollution from cars,



On Earth Day, Councilor and Mayoral Candidate Michelle Wu called for the entire Boston Public School yellow bus fleet to be electrified by 2030. She said it is a way the City can lead, and it's something that right now has federal dollars that can help pay for it.

trucks, and buses.

"We need to immediately move away from dirty diesel fuels that pollute our neighborhoods and move toward clean air for our children, our communities and our bus drivers," Wu said at a press conference at the Melnea Cass Bus Yard in the South End on April 22. "Boston needs to commit to a full electrification of our school bus fleet by 2030 as part of a comprehensive plan to ensure our kids come to school happy, healthy and ready to learn, and

as part of the fight for environmental justice. As Mayor, I will take every possible step to protect the health of our residents and seize on opportunities in the green economy. That starts with our children, from clean, sustainable school transportation to rebuilding Boston Public Schools facilities into healthy, energy-efficient, inspiring places to learn for our students and educators."

In Massachusetts, the Town of Beverly has already begun the process of transitioning to an electric fleet. Wu added that the Biden infrastructure plan includes incentives and grants for municipalities like Boston to electrify school buses and build a network of EV chargers with strong labor and installation standards.

Wu said making the change was something the City government could do – getting federal help – and be the leader of change for other transportation networks, including the MBTA – which transports all school children in Boston in 6th grade and above.

"We have the power and ability to make these changes," she said.

Meshoulam said it is especially important for the environment and for the trees around bus depots all over the City because many times diesel buses at such yard idle extensive, which is illegal. At the Melnea Cass Yard, he said, Conservation Law Foundation not long ago reached a settlement with the bus company for excessive idling. With an electrified fleet, he said, that will not be an issue.

"People around the City understand the important role trees play in the environment, the economy and social habitats," he said.



David Meshoulam, of Speak for the Trees, said diesel bus yards often cause issues with trees and the environment due to excessive idling and the pollution that causes.

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# Rockland Trust will acquire East Boston Savings Bank

By John Lynds

East Boston Savings Bank and Rockland Trust announced last week that the two banks have inked a merger agreement for Rockland to acquire EBSB's parent company, Meridian Bancorp., thus acquiring EBSB in a \$1.15 billion deal.

Under the agreement each Meridian stockholder will receive 0.275 of Rockland common stock for each share of Meridian common stock.

According to the two banks the

merger is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2021.

EBSB President and CEO Richard Gaveganao said last week this transaction brings together two strong banks with a long and rich history serving and investing in local communities.

"We are excited to join a like-minded organization dedicated to creating exceptional customer experiences, built on trust and quality service, while also providing an attractive return to our stockholders," said Gaveganao.

Rockland President and CEO Christopher Oddleifson added

this merger is consistent with Rockland's strategy of acquiring banks in overlapping and adjacent markets who share his bank's "relationship-focused style of banking".

"East Boston Savings Bank has been committed to building meaningful connections with their customers since 1848 and we are excited to work alongside them to deepen those relationships with expanded products, services, and technology," said Oddleifson. "At the same time, we look forward to increasing our presence in and around the city and reinforcing

our position as the Boston area's premier community-focused commercial bank."

EBSB currently has 42 full-service locations, one mobile branch and three loan centers in the greater Boston metropolitan area.

As of March 31, 2021 Meridian had \$6.5 billion in total assets, \$5.3 billion in loans, and \$5.1 billion in deposits.

"Following this merger, Rockland will have approximately \$20 billion in assets," said Oddleifson. "In addition to the market leading commercial lending capabilities, this acquisition

will further enhance our core deposit franchise value and allow for the expansion of Rockland's broad financial product set to an expanded business and consumer customer base."

The boards of directors of each company have unanimously approved the transaction. The transaction is subject to certain conditions, including the receipt of required regulatory approvals, approval by the stockholders of both EBSB and Rockland and other customary conditions.

## Charlestown's weekly COVID update, Acting Mayor Janey announces updates reopening guidance

By John Lynds

Charlestown's weekly COVID-19 positive test rate decreased for a second week in a row according to the latest data released on Friday by the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

According to the BPHC report, last week 568 residents were tested and 4 percent were positive. This was a 13 percent decrease from the 4.6 percent that tested positive two Fridays ago. Between April 2 and April 9 the weekly rate spiked 97 percent and went from 3.4 percent to 6.7 percent.

According to the weekly report, of the 14,944 Charlestown residents tested for the virus since the pandemic began 9.2 percent were found to be positive by last Friday. This was the same percentage reported by the BPHC two Fridays ago.

Citywide, the weekly positive test rate decreased for another week and is now well below the 5 percent threshold.

With COVID numbers declin-

ing Acting Mayor Kim Janey announced Tuesday that the City of Boston will move into a modified version of the state's current phase of the Reopening Massachusetts plan, effective Friday, April 30.

However, according to Janey, Boston will delay most of the state's reopening guidance by three weeks, in an effort to accommodate the unique preparations needed by the City.

In late March, the City announced that it would not move forward with additional reopening steps until the citywide positivity rate remained at or below 2.75 percent for two consecutive weeks. It is currently at 3.6 percent.

Janey said the latest modified update will support Boston's economic recovery as COVID-19 health metrics continue to improve.

"In every aspect of Boston's reopening, we will take the right measures, at the right time, to protect our people and businesses," said Janey. "As we look ahead to better days, we must remember that the COVID-19 pandemic

is not over. Reopening our economy does not remove our personal and collective responsibility to remain vigilant. Thank you to all Bostonians for your continued efforts and cooperation as we reopen our city."

Below are the modified plans that go into effect this week:

Effective Friday, April 30, the City of Boston will align with Commonwealth's updated Face Coverings Order. This states that face coverings will be required at all times at indoor and outdoor venues and events, except when eating or drinking. Face coverings are recommended to be worn both inside and outside during small gatherings at private homes. Face coverings are not required outside in public spaces when individuals are able to remain at a safe distance from others.

Also effective April 30, public gatherings in Boston may increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors, in alignment with the Commonwealth's previously announced limits. In Boston,

all private gatherings and events in private residences will remain subject to current capacity limits of 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. However, public and private gathering limits will increase to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors on June 19 in Boston, three weeks after the higher limits go into effect in other parts of the Commonwealth. The City of Boston and the Boston Public Health Commission will continue to closely monitor public health data and adjust reopening plans as necessary.

The BPHC data released last Friday showed Charlestown's infection went from 691.7 cases per 10,000 residents to 705.1 cases per 10,000 residents—a 2 percent increase.

An additional 26 residents became infected with the virus last week bringing the total to 1,369 confirmed cases in the neighborhood.

The statistics released by the BPHC as part of its weekly COVID19 report breaks down the number of cases and infection rates in each neighborhood. It also breaks down the number of cases by age, gender and race.

Citywide positive cases of coronavirus increased 1.7 percent percent last week and went from 67,685 cases to 68,885 confirmed cases in a week. Four additional Boston residents died from the virus last week and there are now 1,364 total deaths in the city from COVID.

## SCHOOL (from pg. 10)

have not yet returned to five-day school, but the state announced a mandate to have those students back by May 17. Of those eligible for the in-person option, Charlestown had the highest percentage of students returning citywide, according to BPS figures. The Town had 58 percent of students choose in-person learning, for a total of 1,001 students. There were 33 percent of students who have remained remote, which is 568 students. Some 9 percent are still officially registered as Hybrid and haven't changed over their preferences yet. Districtwide, only 46 percent of the students have chosen an in-person model, and Chinatown was the lowest num-

ber of in-person students with 30 percent going in-person and 63 percent staying remote.

At the doors of the school on Monday, it was a varying array of emotions.

Kids who hadn't seen each other (except on Zoom) in more than a year awkwardly, but excitedly, greeted one another. Parents were mostly happy to have their children off to a classroom for the week, but there was a bittersweet tinge to that as well – as many parents had grown accustomed to having their children beside them for the day as they worked at home or conducted some sort of hybrid working environment alongside their children. For some

families, it was their first real separation since March 2020, when everything went on lockdown.

Overwhelmingly, though, there was a sense among parents choosing in-person at the Warren Prescott that it was safe, and it was the right thing to do for the children and for society.

"Our kids have been away for over a year," said parent Donna Garlough. "They are ecstatic to see their friends again. I feel this school has done an awesome job to prepare the kids and to re-start. I think everyone is ready for a fresh start. I do feel palpable relief from the parents."

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# Councilor Edwards appointed Vice Chair of the Council's new Committee on COVID-19 Recovery

By John Lynds

Last week City Council President Pro Tempore Matt O'Malley appointed At Large City Councilor Michael Flaherty and District 1 City Councilor Lydia Edwards as chair and vice chair of the Council's new Committee on COVID-19 Recovery.

Last Wednesday, the Council unanimously voted in favor of O'Malley's motion to amend the City Council rules to add the committee. The goals of the Committee are to exercise general oversight and make recommendations on the City of Boston's distribution of

state and federal COVID-19 relief funding and programs.

With the city poised to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support Edwards said the new committee makes perfect sense for oversight and transparency.

"This new committee will really help concentrate all of the conversations about COVID recovery, and the hundreds of millions of dollars that's going to come to the City of Boston," said Edwards. "Normally as federal grants come in we have them go to the assigned relevant committees and then we have a hearing about it and a vote.

But here comes hundreds of millions of dollars and the question is how do we make sure we're concentrated on COVID recovery and this funding doesn't just get washed away on other things."

Edwards said the committee will work to strategically direct federal dollars so they can be used appropriately.

"I don't want this funding to be used to fill the normal gaps that have to be filled," said Edwards. "That's not how this is going to work. We want to make sure we're talking about real structural changes that need to happen--specifically, aid to individuals and to

our businesses because they were hurt in a unique way for a long time by this pandemic. It's hard enough for people to track where taxpayers' dollars are going so the idea is if we have one committee where all of the COVID related dollars are going then it's easier for us to be held accountable and be more transparent to the public. What we want to make sure we are not filling in budget gaps with these funds but really doing something new. If we're not dedicating a majority of our efforts to bringing people who lost everything back, bringing jobs back, bringing homeowners and tenants back and

just dedicating our efforts to business as usual we will fail the city and its citizens."

With her home neighborhood of Eastie hit harder than nearly every other neighborhood in Boston by the pandemic, Edwards is in a unique position to bring some insight to the committee on how funds should be targeted.

"I have never been more proud of my neighborhood and district than during this pandemic and I know that we're going to swing back stronger than ever," said Edwards. "I really think I'm

(EDWARDS Pg. 16)

## For the Record

### WARREN PRESCOTT SCHOOL

April 26 - 5 Day In Person School Starts

May 12 - Site Council Meeting @ 5:30pm

### CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARINGS FOR THE WEEK:

•From the April 29, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS HEARING: The focus of this hearing is the FY22 budgets for the Law Department, Office of Arts & Culture, and Office of Tourism, Sports & Entertainment. This hearing will also cover the revolving funds overseen by these departments.

\*2 p.m. - The focus of this hearing is an overview of the Capital Budget, as well as the FY22 budget for the Public Facilities Department.

•From the April 30, 10 a.m. CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION: The focus of this working session is the FY22 budgets for the Boston Police Department and the Environment Department, including Conservation Commission and Landmarks.

•From the May 4, 2 p.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION: The focus of this working session is the FY22 budget for Boston Public Schools (Commitment 1 - Eliminate Opportunity & Achievement Gaps), Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and Youth Engagement & Employment.

•From the May 6, 10 a.m., CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS WORKING SESSION: The focus of this working session are the FY22 budgets for the Boston Public Library, Office of Food Access, Office of Language and Communications Access, Office of Immigrant Advancement, Human Rights Commission, and Age Strong Commission.

From the April 27 Zoning Board hearing, online:

•9 Kelley Court. Applicant: Chandler Miller. Purpose: Convert existing roof into family recreational space and install 6ft high fence. Install landing and stairs as required for access.

•2 Laurel St. Applicant: Eliza Becton and Glen Kruger. Purpose: Build another story onto the existing 2 story 10x7"ell" at the rear of the building to expand the bathroom and also renovate the second floor bathroom.

•2 Mount Vernon St. Applicant: Timothy Sheehan. Purpose: This job will require ZBA / BPDA approvals. This application is for a new shed dormer on an existing habitable attic floor with a roof deck accessed through a hatch will be located on the roof. This project will mirror the adjacent house at 4 Mount Vernon Street.

•6 Mount Vernon Ave. Applicant: Timothy Burke. Purpose: Amend permit to construct a new dormer on rear of house with roof deck above. Access to roof deck from new stair and hatch. Work includes new framing, cladding, windows, decking, roof hatch and railings. Work includes associated electrical, plumbing and mechanical work.

•9 Eden St. Applicant: Pulgini & Norton, LLP. Purpose: Confirm occupancy as a two family. Change occupancy to a three family dwelling. Rebuild the rear elevation to add additional space to the rear of the structure to convert from a two family to a three family; build a driveway to access parking in the rear of the property.

From the April 29 Public Improvements Commission, online, 10 a.m.:

On a joint petition by the BPDA and the Massachusetts Port Authority for the making of Specific Repairs within Chelsea Street (public way), Charlestown, located at its intersection with Sixteenth Street, and consisting of curb and sidewalk reconstruction, as well as new and relocated pedestrian ramps, street lighting infrastructure, traf-

fic signal infrastructure, and a guardrail opening.

### LOVE YOUR BLOCK SPRING CLEAN-UPS

The Office of Public Service and Community Outreach is hosting their annual Love Your Block Spring Clean-ups on Friday, April 30, Saturday, May 1, and Saturday, May 15. Residents can register to volunteer at [bit.ly/LYBCleanups2021](http://bit.ly/LYBCleanups2021).

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 30

•Corporate Day

Saturday, May 1

•Charlestown

From the May 1 School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force, 1 p.m., online via Zoom (<https://k12-bostonpublicschools.zoom.us/j/88353763242>):

•Public Comment

The City of Boston launched its latest project to protect neighborhoods from future coastal flooding as a result of climate change. The project is focused on the flooding vulnerabilities in the Charlestown neighborhoods. The first online meeting will be later this month.

When: Thursday, April 29, from 6-8 p.m. Feel free to drop in at any point.

RSVP: Strongly encouraged but not required.

At this virtual event, attendees will learn about various aspects of the project and provide their input. Community feedback and support of the project is important to ensure meaningful impact.

PLAN Charlestown upcoming meetings and workshops:

•Monday, May 26, 2021 on the Rutherford Avenue and Sullivan Square subareas.

•Wednesday, June 23, 2021 on the Original Peninsula and Lost Village sub-areas.

At these workshops, we will dive deeper in conversations about the future

priorities and needs for these areas, as well as shaping future investments in these areas. In the coming weeks, you will be able to sign up and find more information about these workshops.

### NO EXAM SCHOOL WAIT LIST

Attention all 6th grade Charlestown families. If you have applied to an exam school and know that your child will be attending school elsewhere...PLEASE contact BPS and pull your exam school application. There is NO waitlist so if your child receives an invitation and declines it, it will NOT go to another Charlestown student.

Email address:

[exam@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:exam@bostonpublicschools.org)

Include your child's name, birthdate, school, and zip code.

Phone: 617-635-9512

### OLD SCHOOLBOYS SCHOLARSHIP

The Old Charlestown Schoolboys Association isn't able to have its annual banquet this year, but it is going ahead with a plan to distribute up to \$26,000 in scholarships to students in the Town.

The deadline for the Old Charlestown Schoolboys scholarships has been extended to April 28 and the scholarships are open to any Charlestown resident who:

- is a senior in high school.
- has been a resident of Charlestown.
- will be entering college or preparatory school or technical school this year
- is a senior in high school or freshman, sophomore or junior in college or preparatory school.

Applications can be obtained at the Boston Public Library, the Charlestown Boys and Girls Club, St. Mary-St. Catherine of Sienna office, St. Francis de Sales office, St. John's Office, and the First Church of Charlestown Office.

Applications are due April 28, 2021.

This year no transcripts are required.

For more information, please contact Jim O'Brien (617-543-5384).

# Charlestown rising musicians at NEMPAC help raise \$18,040 to fund youth music scholarships

The North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) and the community celebrated their commitment to music together on Saturday, April 10, at their 7th annual Performathon with four and a half hours of back-to-back music performances to benefit their Youth Music Scholarships Fund.

This event was possible thanks to 85 NEMPAC students and faculty who performed, and to their families, friends, local businesses, and sponsors who came together to support quality and accessible music education for all.

A total of \$18,040 was raised for the NEMPAC Scholarship Fund, supported by 273 performer pledges, dozens of raffle items donated by local businesses, and our event sponsors, the Charlestown Mothers Association (CMA) and the North End Athletic Association (NEAA). 85 students and faculty passionately showcased their talent through live and pre-recorded clips of music that ranged from classical, to rock, to musical theatre, and folk music, all collecting pledges with one single purpose: to support and further NEMPAC's cause!

"A special congratulations to our top pledge raisers this year! These students worked so hard to collect the most pledges for their performances - first place was Jax Raukohl, second place was Harper Racine of Charlestown, and third place was a tie with Madelyn &

Jacob Litofsky of Charlestown!" - Allie Meek-Carufel, NEMPAC Educational Director

Spotlights included performances featuring students from the NEMPAC ensemble programs such as the Eliot Music Ensemble, Music Theatre Troupe, Music Theatre Intermediate Class, and Young Dancers Class. The event also included interactive dance and theatre game fun with two favorite NEMPAC faculty members, Amanda Teneriello Yazinka and Sarah Rogers. The full program can be seen here.

"At NEMPAC, we aim to increase our scholarship award allocation each year to meet the growing demand for need-based support. Thanks to our talented students and faculty, this is possible! We are grateful for their participation in the #PledgeMe campaign and Performathon event - and also thank our sponsors, the local businesses who donated, and neighbors who support our raffle!" Sherri Snow, Executive Director.

Special to this year's performathon was the start of NEMPAC Milestone awards for students and faculty. The following students and faculty received awards: Cameron Esposito, Annabella Sandy-Roche, Anna Magno, Dinero Jelley, Melinda Sandy-Roche, Xiaolan Ruan\*, Dan Raney\*, and Jaime Castellanos\* (\*denotes faculty). Awards included Youngest Performer, Oldest Performer, and Student(s) that have been taking

lessons with NEMPAC the longest.

The NEMPAC 2021 Virtual Performathon was generously supported by Bronze Level Sponsors North End Athletic Association (NEAA) and Charlestown Mothers Association (CMA). Thanks to the generosity of all the donors who pledged students; and thanks especially to the local businesses who contributed to our raffle prizes! Those businesses are listed here.

For more information about NEMPAC and the NEMPAC Scholarship Fund, please visit [www.nempacboston.org](http://www.nempacboston.org)

In the last fiscal year 2019-20, NEMPAC awarded \$19,061 in total scholarships, with \$8,316 awarded from the Geraldine Marshall Scholarship Fund. The fund provides need-based scholarship support giving children or teens equitable opportunities to participate in high-quality after-school or extended music and performing arts programs. Students receiving scholarships use support to take private or group music lessons, enroll in after-school dance, theatre, music classes, or experience week-long intensive summer music workshops. The fund aims to spark a creative, artistic interest in students who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Scholarship applications are accepted several times throughout the year and are available in English, Mandarin, and Spanish. The demand for financial support to participate in

NEMPAC educational programs has never been greater, as families continue to face unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19 and as NEMPAC's partnerships with Boston Public Schools expand.

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 enriches the North End, Charlestown, and surrounding Boston neighborhoods with affordable, high-quality performances and programming.

In 2001, five North End mothers launched NEMPAC out of their homes to give their daughters and sons the opportunity to pursue private piano instruction. By listening to, empathizing with, and meeting a community need for youth instrument lessons, the nonprofit's female founders banded together to make music an approachable art form for the children of Little Italy.

Fast forward nearly two decades later, and NEMPAC continues to flourish at the intersection of arts education and professional performance. NEMPAC's community music school nurtures the next generation of artists through in-house education courses, private and group music instruction, as well as on-site arts programming in area schools.

Follow us on social media for

real-time coverage at professional performances, music school updates, and content curated especially for artists:

Facebook: @NEMPACBoston  
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LinkedIn: North End Music & Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC).

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## LEGAL NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 Docket No. SU21P0488GD In the matter of: Michelle Simpson RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person Of: Charlestown, MA To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Department of Developmental Service of Boston, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Michelle Simpson

is in need of a Guardian and requesting that (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve Without Surety on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/20/2021. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Brian J. Dunn, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: April 13, 2021  
Felix D. Arroyo, Register of Probate

4/29/21  
Charlestown

EDWARDS (from pg. 14)

uniquely positioned because my district has been hurt the most by this pandemic. So I want to help navigate a lot of these conversations towards how the funding can help the most and have the biggest impact on the lives of residents.”

These federal funds will support a national vaccination program, small businesses, provide emergen-

cy relief and resources for schools’ safe reopening.

“The purpose of the Committee is to elevate incoming federal and state funds, while ensuring there are community voices throughout the entire process ensuring that these funds are distributed equitably, fairly, and effectively,” said O’Malley. “As the city recov-

ers from COVID-19’s devastating inequitable impacts on public health, housing, and the economy, we will work toward building a more resilient future for every Bostonian.”

While Flaherty said, “A critical benefit of having a stand alone committee focused on reviewing this funding is that the Council

can now provide a singular public forum for residents to provide input on how the funding is spent. I am looking forward to engaging residents and stakeholders from every neighborhood in our City to make sure that this funding will have the greatest impact on the programs, services and communities that need it most.”

Aside from Edwards and Flaherty, committee members include Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, Chair of Public Health Committee, Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair of Ways and Means Committee, and Councilor Ed Flynn, Chair of City and Neighborhood Services Committee

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